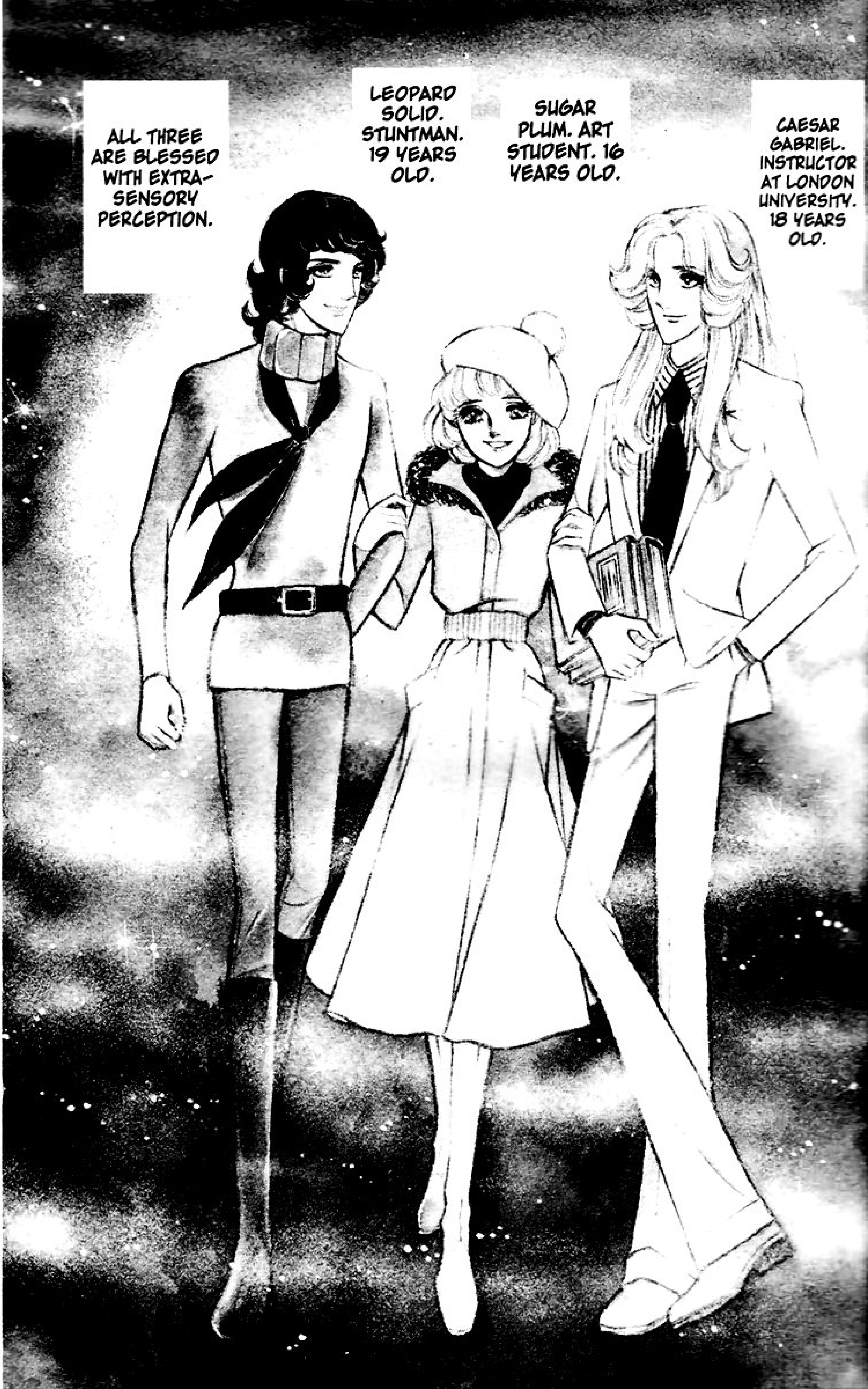
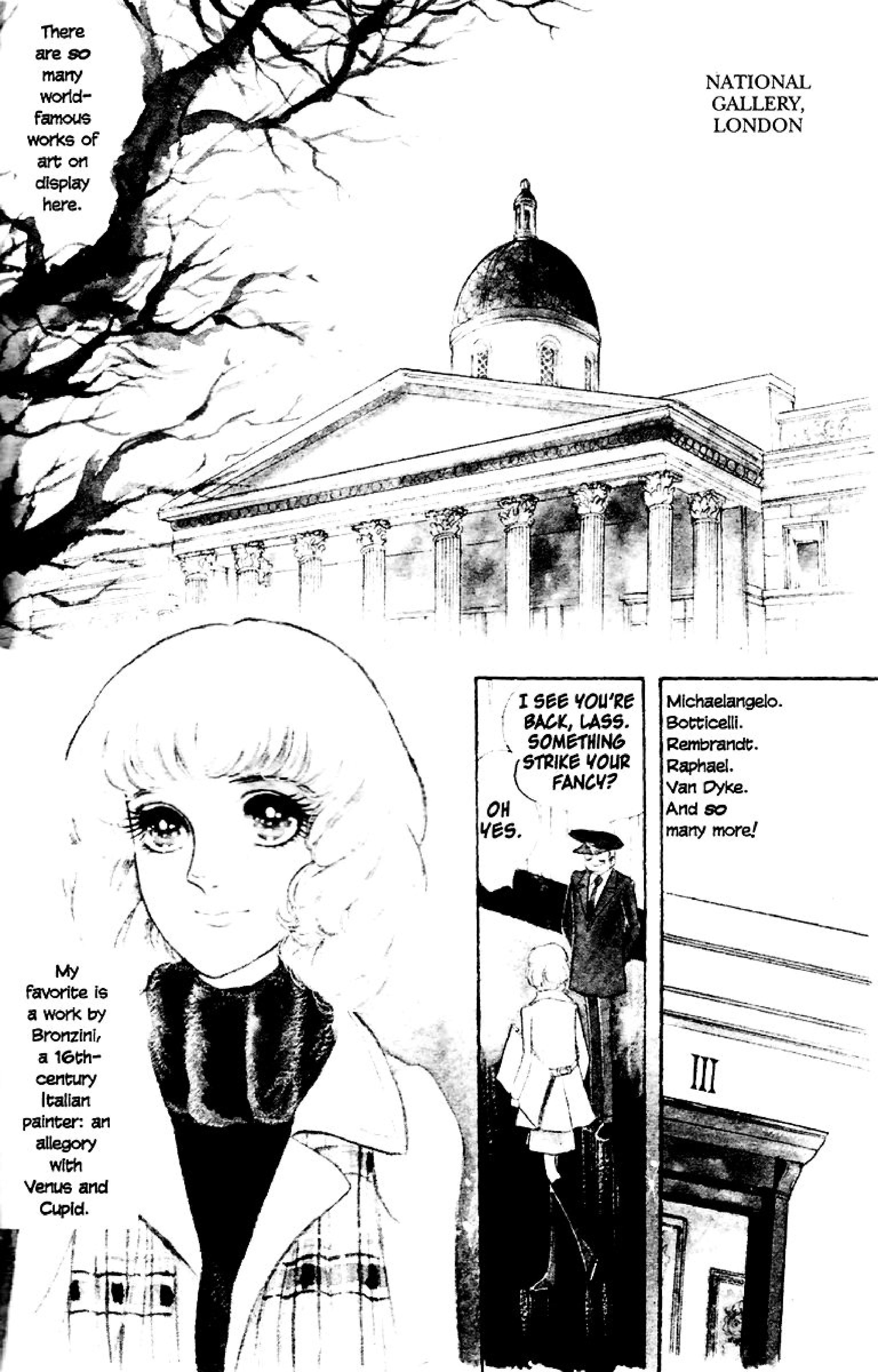
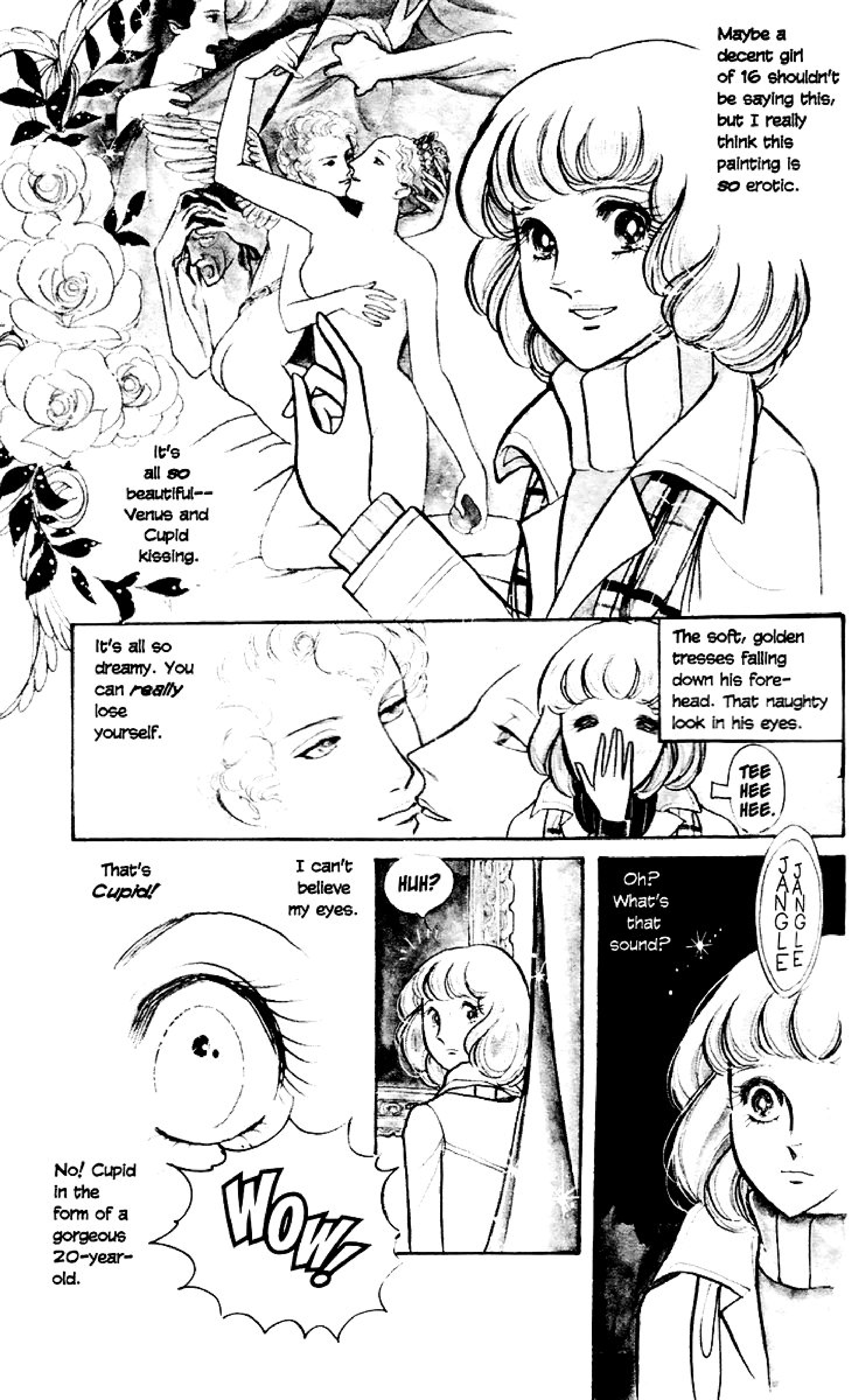
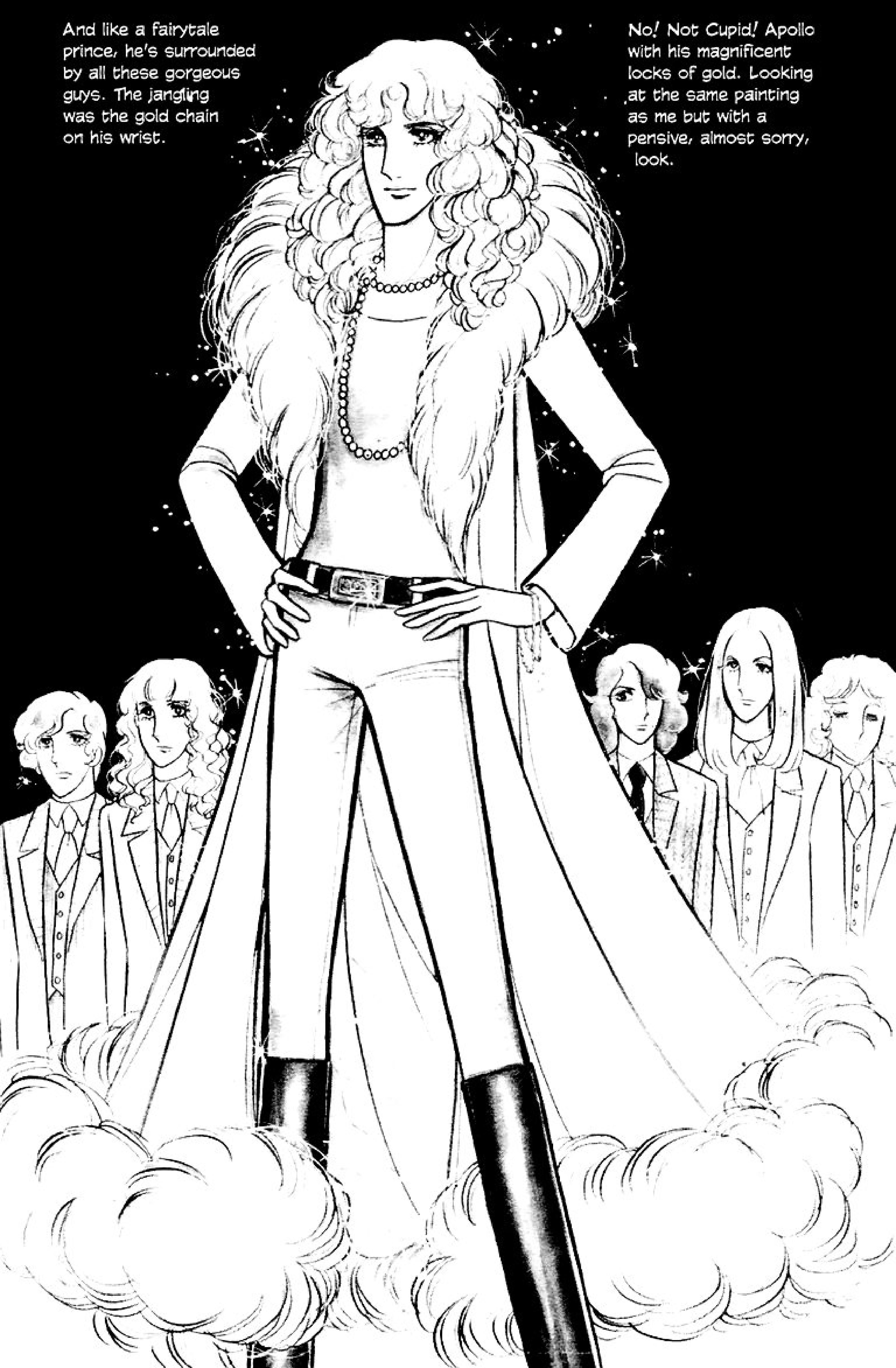

CAESAR GABRIEL. INSTRUCTOR AT LONDON UNIVERSITY. 18 YEARS OLD.
SUGAR PLUM. ART STUDENT. 16 YEARS OLD.
LEOPARD SOLID. STUNTMAN. 19 YEARS OLD.
ALL THREE ARE BLESSED WITH EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION.

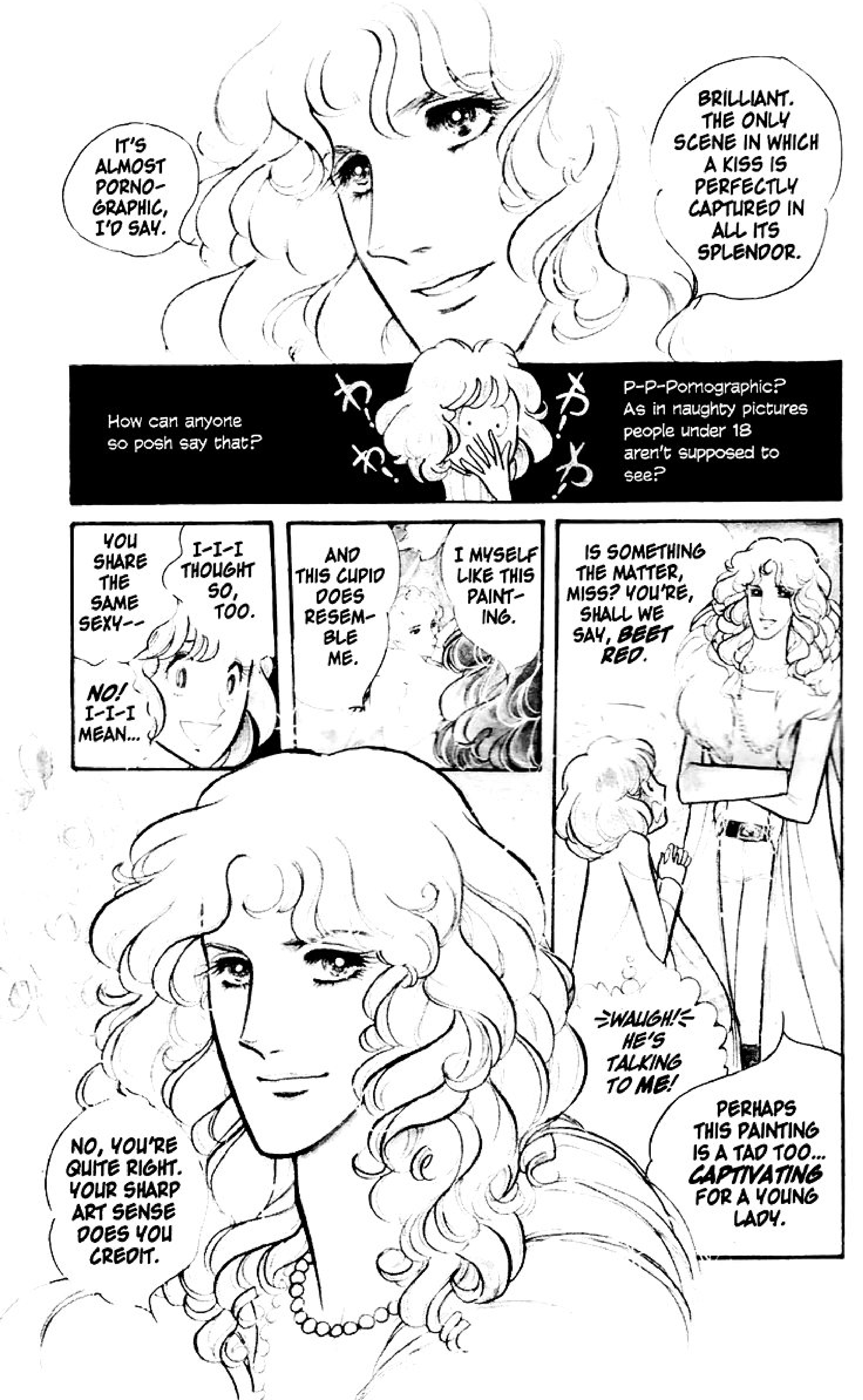
FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

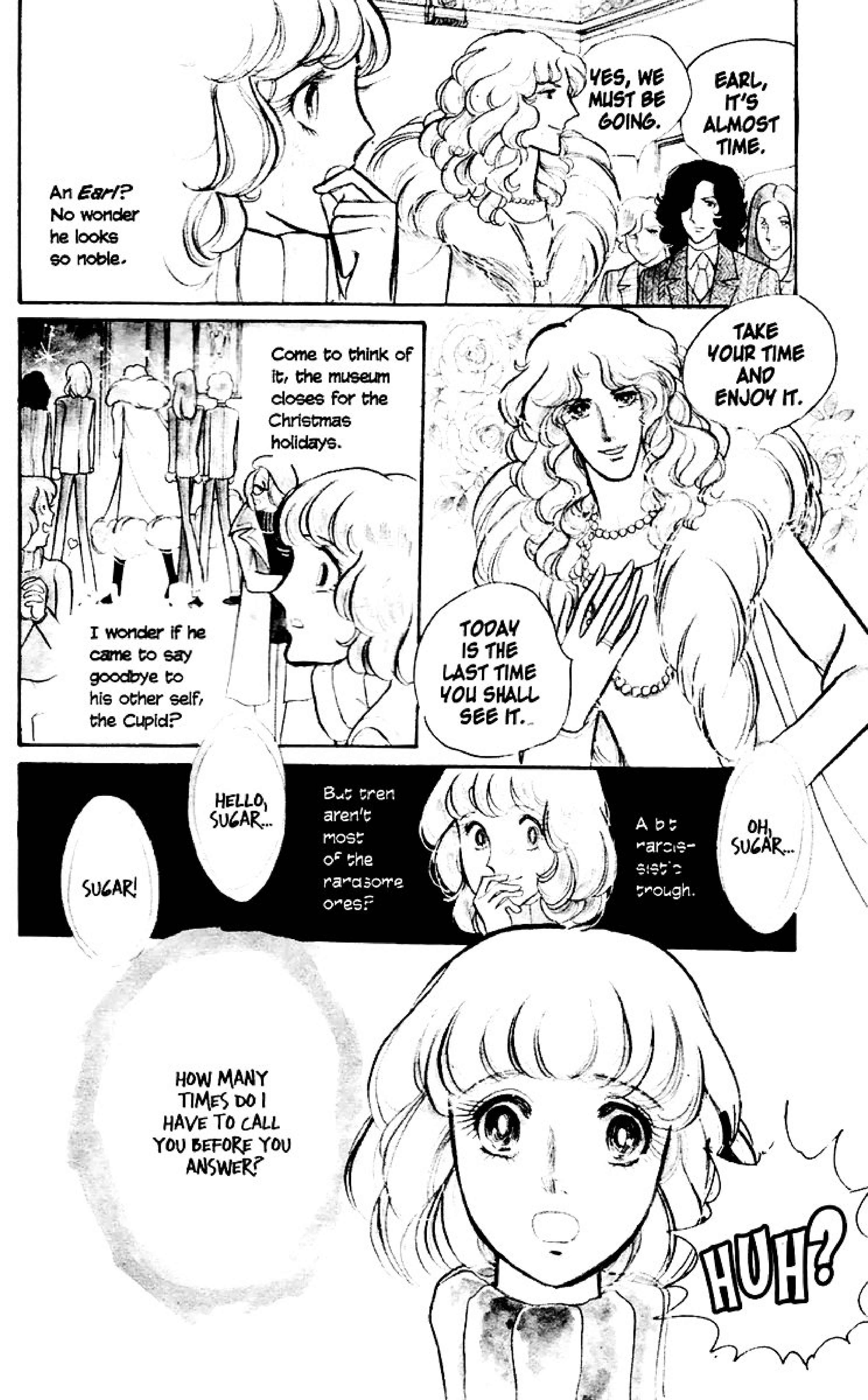
chapter 1

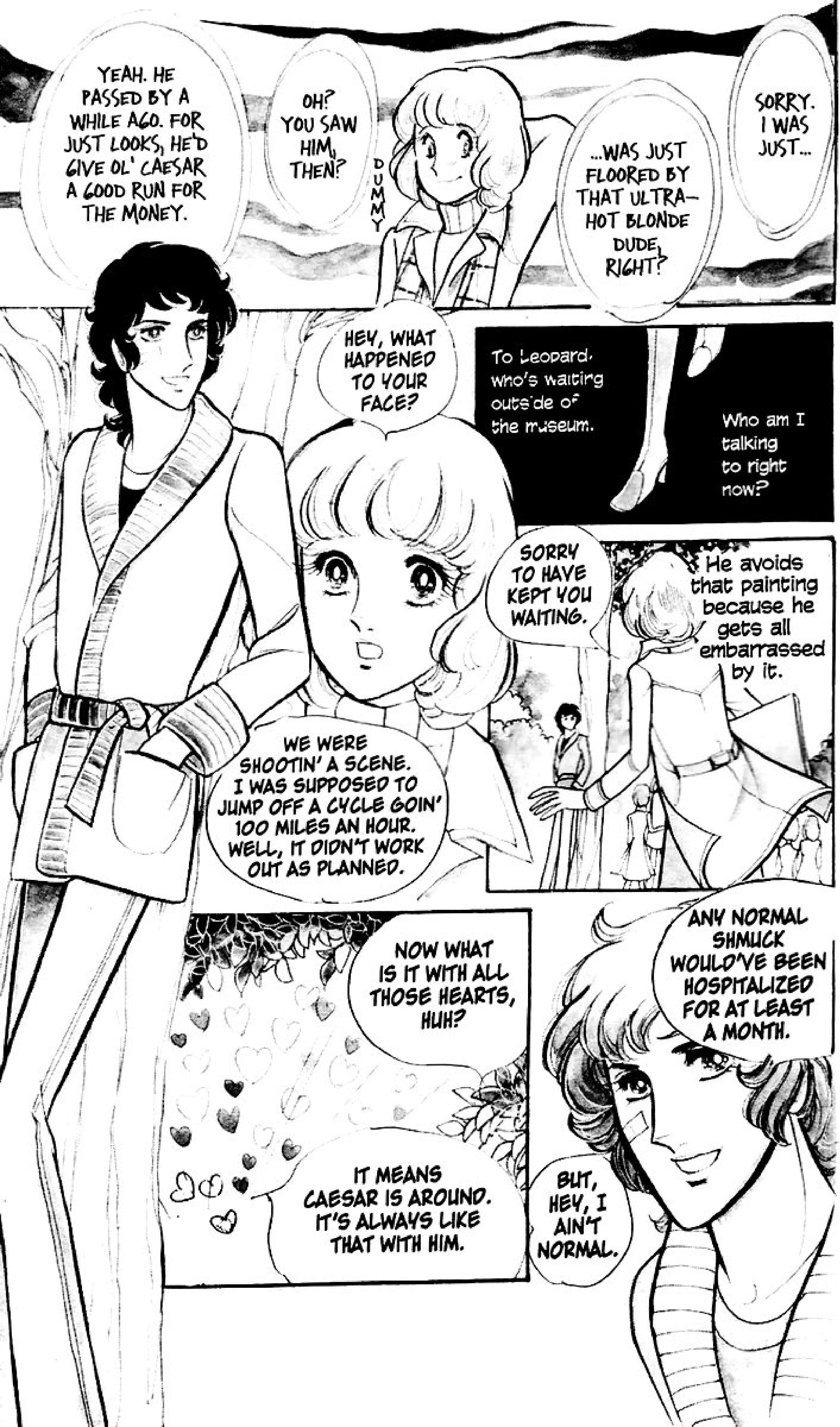

NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON
There are so many world-famous works of art on display here.
Michaelangelo. Botticelli. Rembrandt. Raphael. Van Dyke. And so many more!
I SEE YOU'RE BACK, LASS. SOMETHING STRIKE YOUR FANCY?
OH YES.
III
My favorite is a work by Bronzini, a 16th-century Italian painter: an allegory with Venus and Cupid.

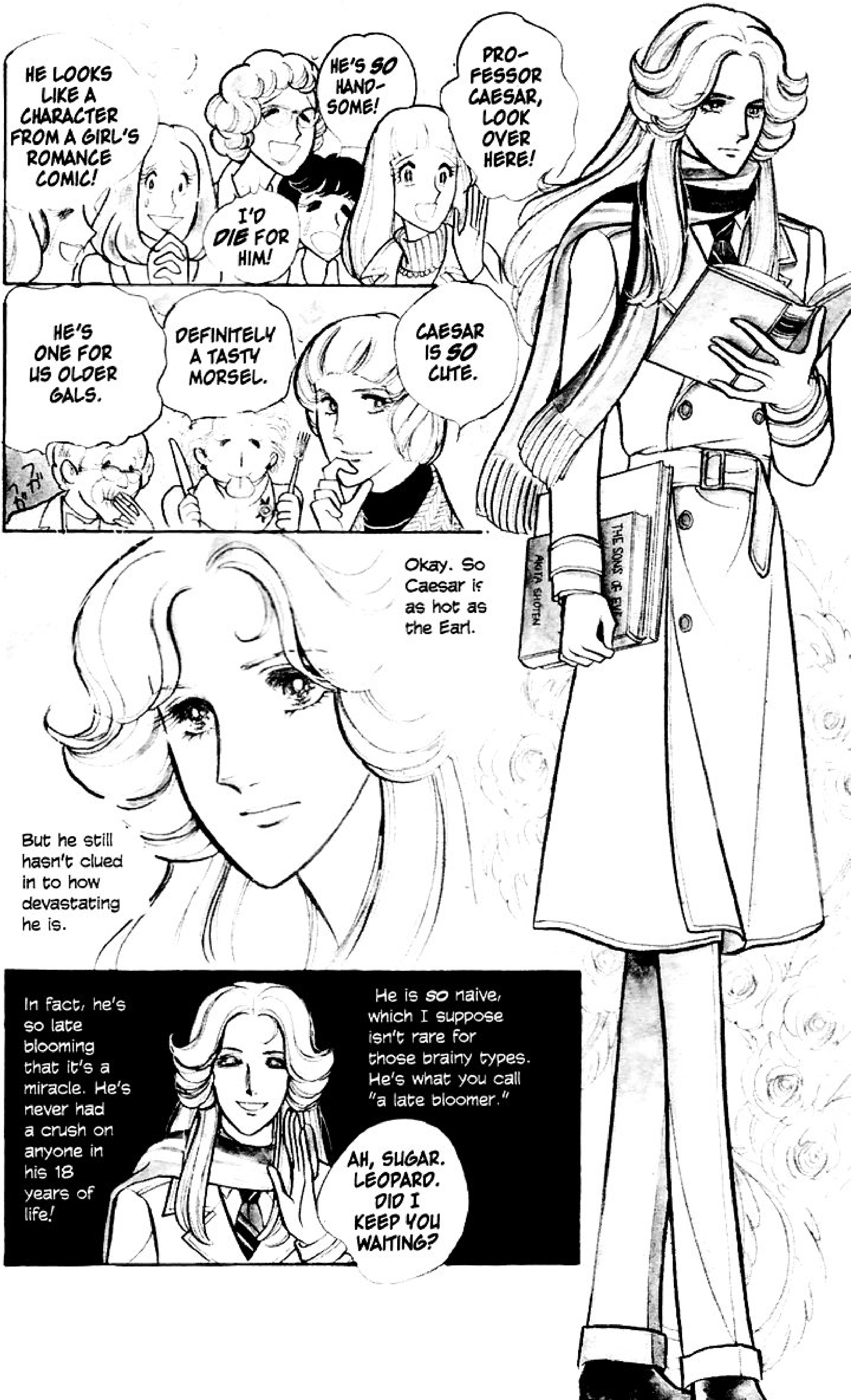

Maybe a decent girl of 16 shouldn't be saying this, but I really think this painting is *so* erotic.
It's all *so* beautiful-- Venus and Cupid kissing.
It's all so dreamy. You can *really* lose yourself.
The soft, golden tresses falling down his forehead. That naughty look in his eyes.
TEE HEE HEE.
That's *Cupid!*
No! Cupid in the form of a gorgeous 20-year-old.
WOW!
I can't believe my eyes.
HUH?
Oh? What's that sound?
JANGLE JANGLE

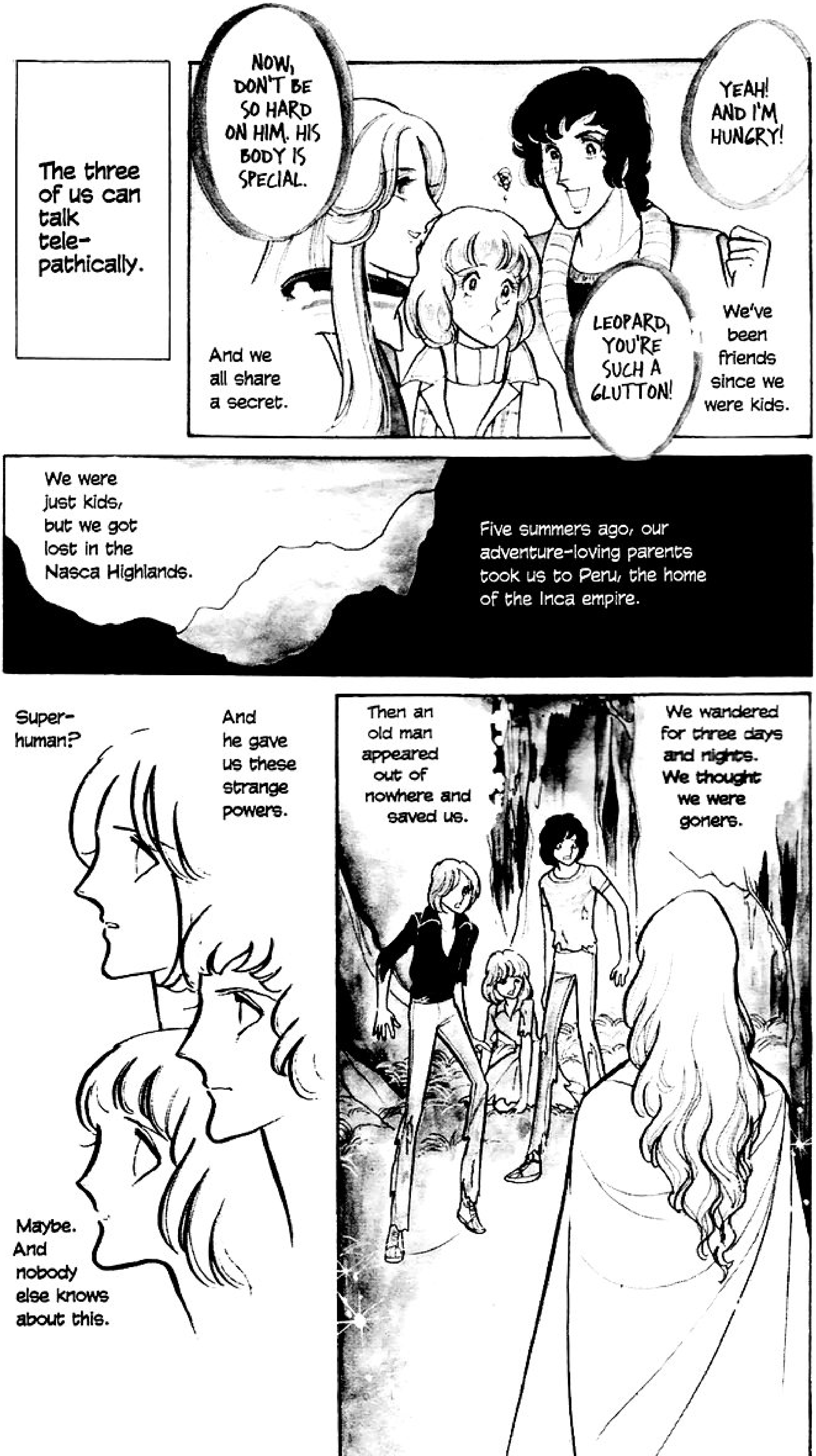

No! Not Cupid! Apollo with his magnificent locks of gold. Looking at the same painting as me but with a pensive, almost sorry, look.
And like a fairytale prince, he's surrounded by all these gorgeous guys. The jangling was the gold chain on his wrist.

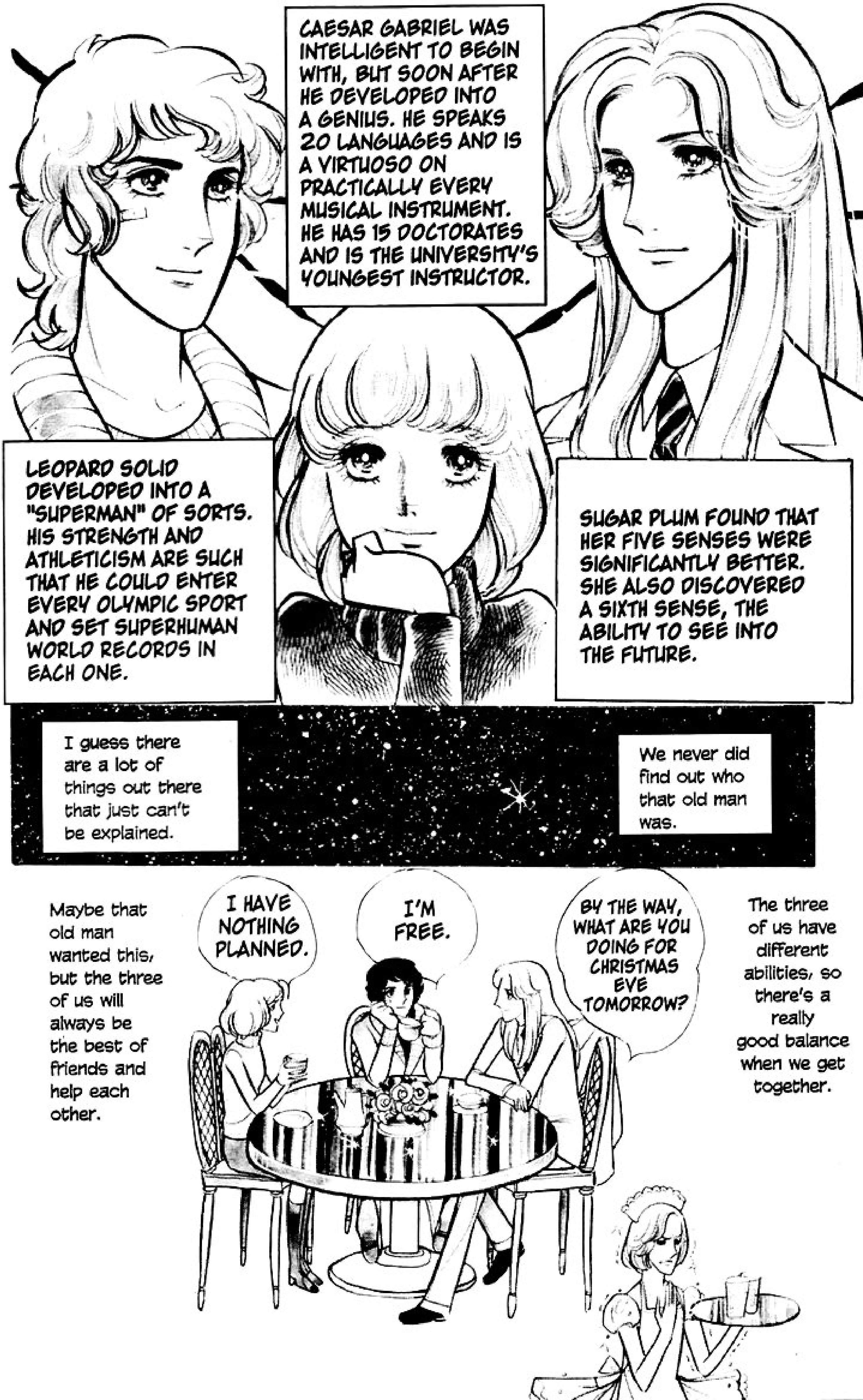

BRILLIANT. THE ONLY SCENE IN WHICH A KISS IS PERFECTLY CAPTURED IN ALL ITS SPLENDOR.
IT'S ALMOST PORNOGRAPHIC, I'D SAY.
P-P-Pornographic? As in naughty pictures people under 18 aren't supposed to see?
How can anyone so posh say that?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, MISS? YOU'RE, SHALL WE SAY, BEET RED.
I MYSELF LIKE THIS PAINTING.
AND THIS CUPID DOES RESEMBLE ME.
I-I-I THOUGHT SO, TOO.
YOU SHARE THE SAME SEXY--
NO! I-I-I MEAN...
WAUGH! HE'S TALKING TO ME!
PERHAPS THIS PAINTING IS A TAD TOO... CAPTIVATING FOR A YOUNG LADY.
NO, YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. YOUR SHARP ART SENSE DOES YOU CREDIT.

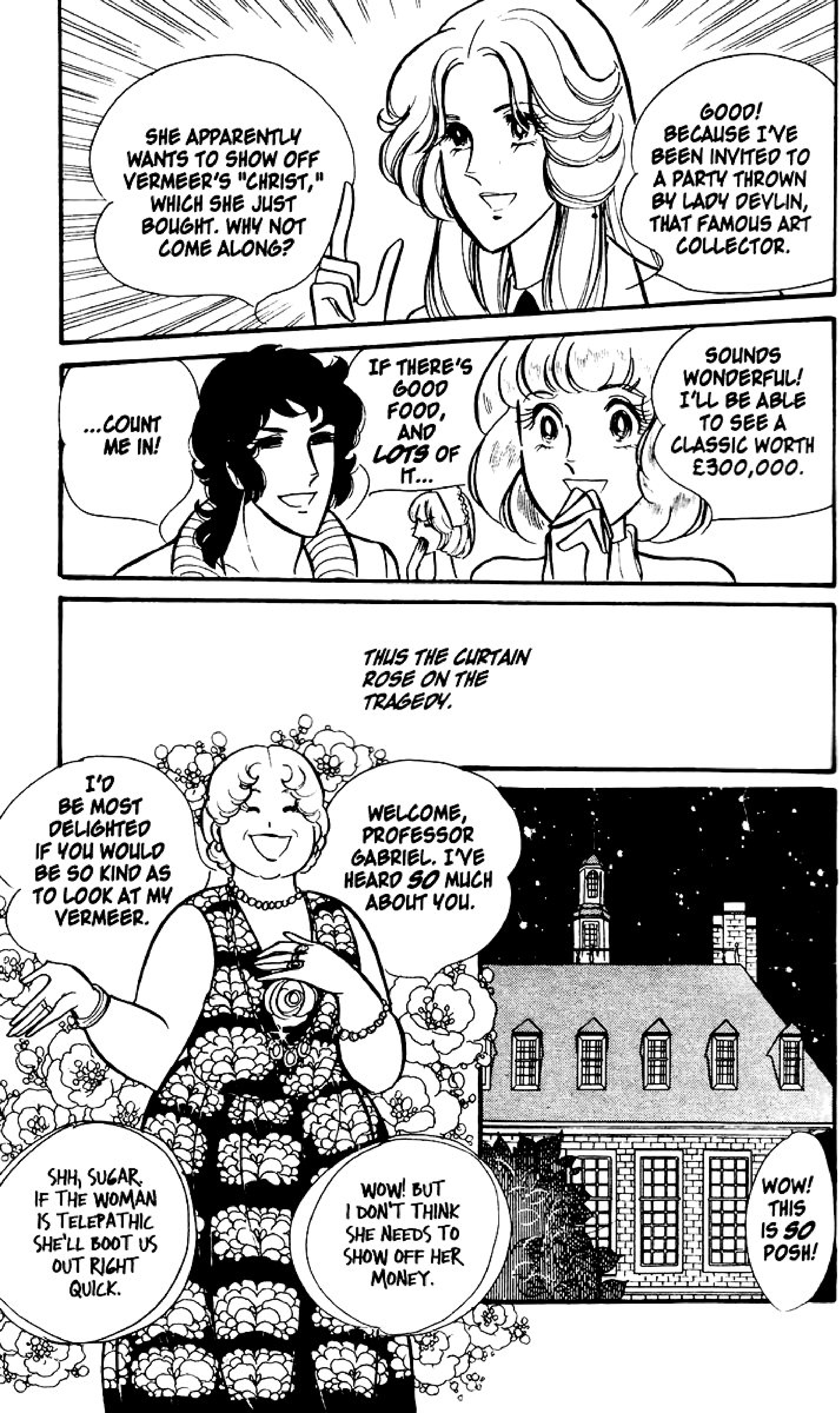

EARL, IT'S ALMOST TIME.
YES, WE MUST BE GOING.
An *Earl*? No wonder he looks so noble.
TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY IT.
TODAY IS THE LAST TIME YOU SHALL SEE IT.
Come to think of it, the museum closes for the Christmas holidays.
I wonder if he came to say goodbye to his other self, the Cupid?
OH, SUGAR...
A bit narcissistic though.
But then aren't most of the handsome ones?
HELLO, SUGAR...
SUGAR!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO CALL YOU BEFORE YOU ANSWER?
HUH?

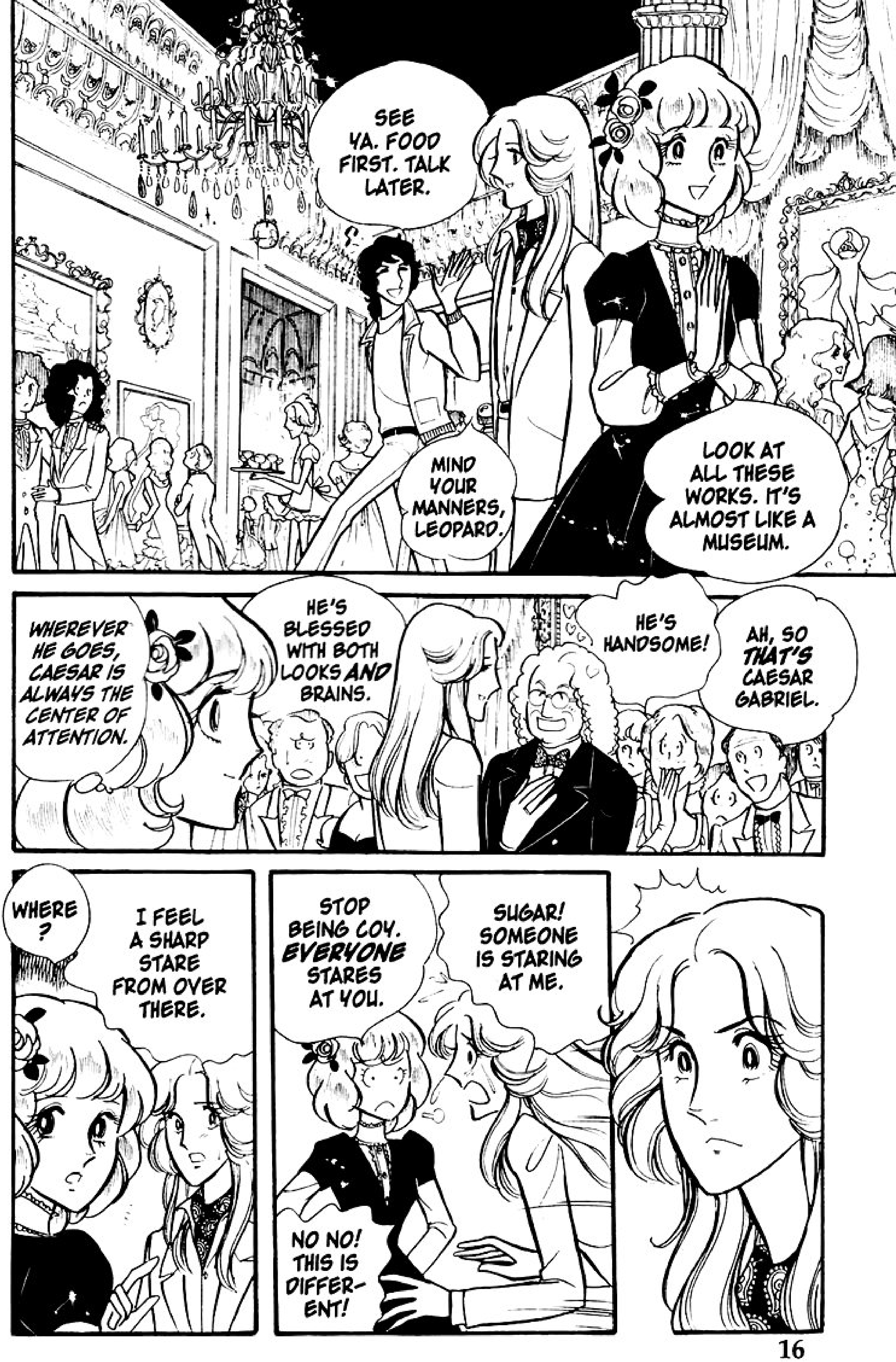

SORRY. I WAS JUST...
...WAS JUST FLOORED BY THAT ULTRA-HOT BLONDE DUDE, RIGHT?
DUMMY
OH? YOU SAW HIM, THEN?
YEAH. HE PASSED BY A WHILE AGO. FOR JUST LOOKS, HE'D GIVE OL' CAESAR A GOOD RUN FOR THE MONEY.
Who am I talking to right now?
To Leopard, who's waiting outside of the museum.
He avoids that painting because he gets all embarrassed by it.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
WE WERE SHOOTIN' A SCENE. I WAS SUPPOSED TO JUMP OFF A CYCLE GOIN' 100 MILES AN HOUR. WELL, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED.
ANY NORMAL SHMUCK WOULD'VE BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR AT LEAST A MONTH.
BUT, HEY, I AIN'T NORMAL.
NOW WHAT IS IT WITH ALL THOSE HEARTS, HUH?
IT MEANS CAESAR IS AROUND. IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH HIM.

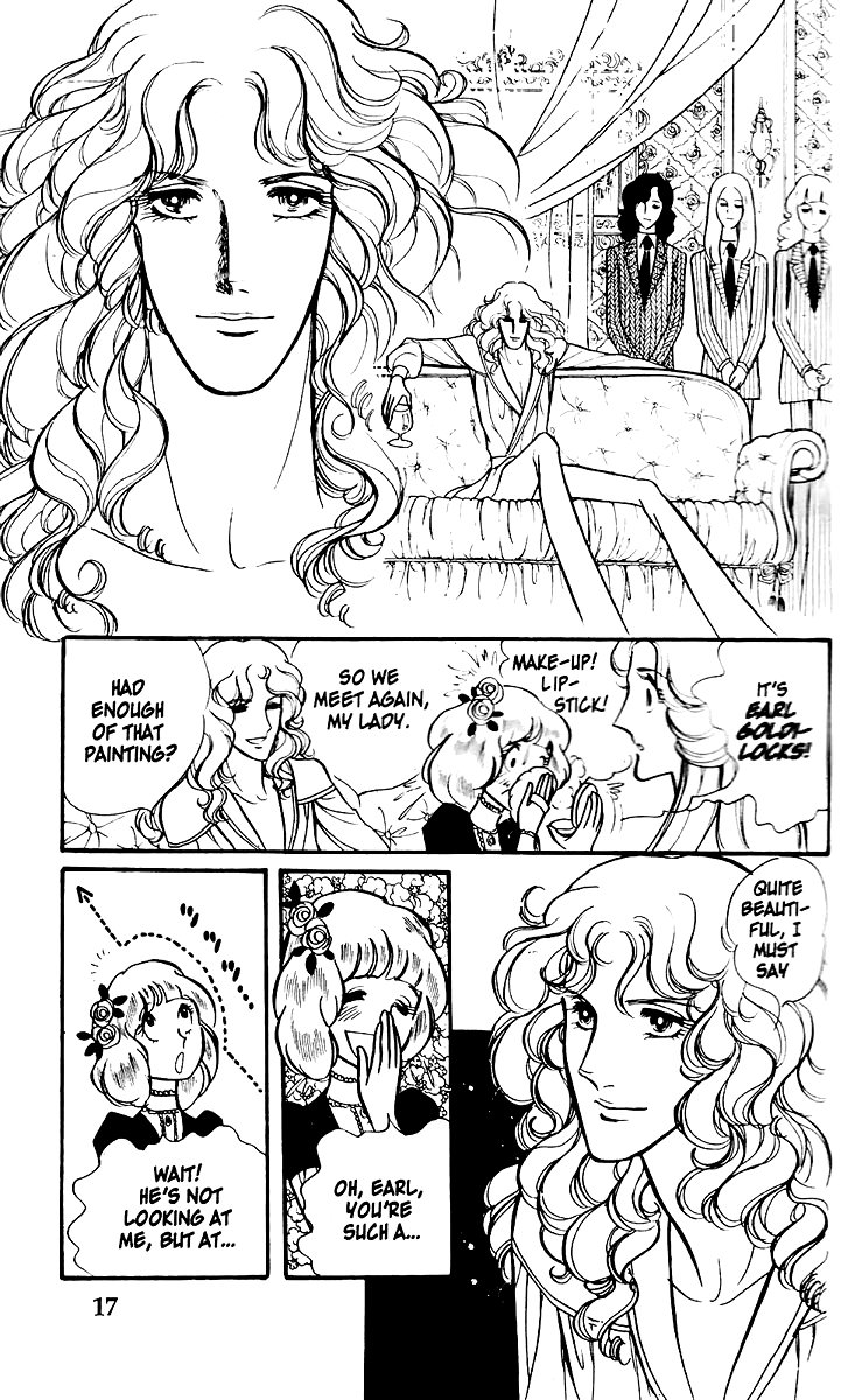

PRO-FESSOR CAESAR, LOOK OVER HERE!
HE'S *SO* HANDSOME!
I'D *DIE* FOR HIM!
HE LOOKS LIKE A CHARACTER FROM A GIRL'S ROMANCE COMIC!
CAESAR IS *SO* CUTE.
DEFINITELY A TASTY MORSEL.
HE'S ONE FOR US OLDER GALS.
THE SONS OF EVE
AKITA SHOTEN
Okay. So Caesar is as hot as the Earl.
But he still hasn't clued in to how devastating he is.
He is *so* naive, which I suppose isn't rare for those brainy types. He's what you call "a late bloomer."
In fact, he's so late blooming that it's a miracle. He's never had a crush on anyone in his 18 years of life!
AH, SUGAR. LEOPARD. DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?

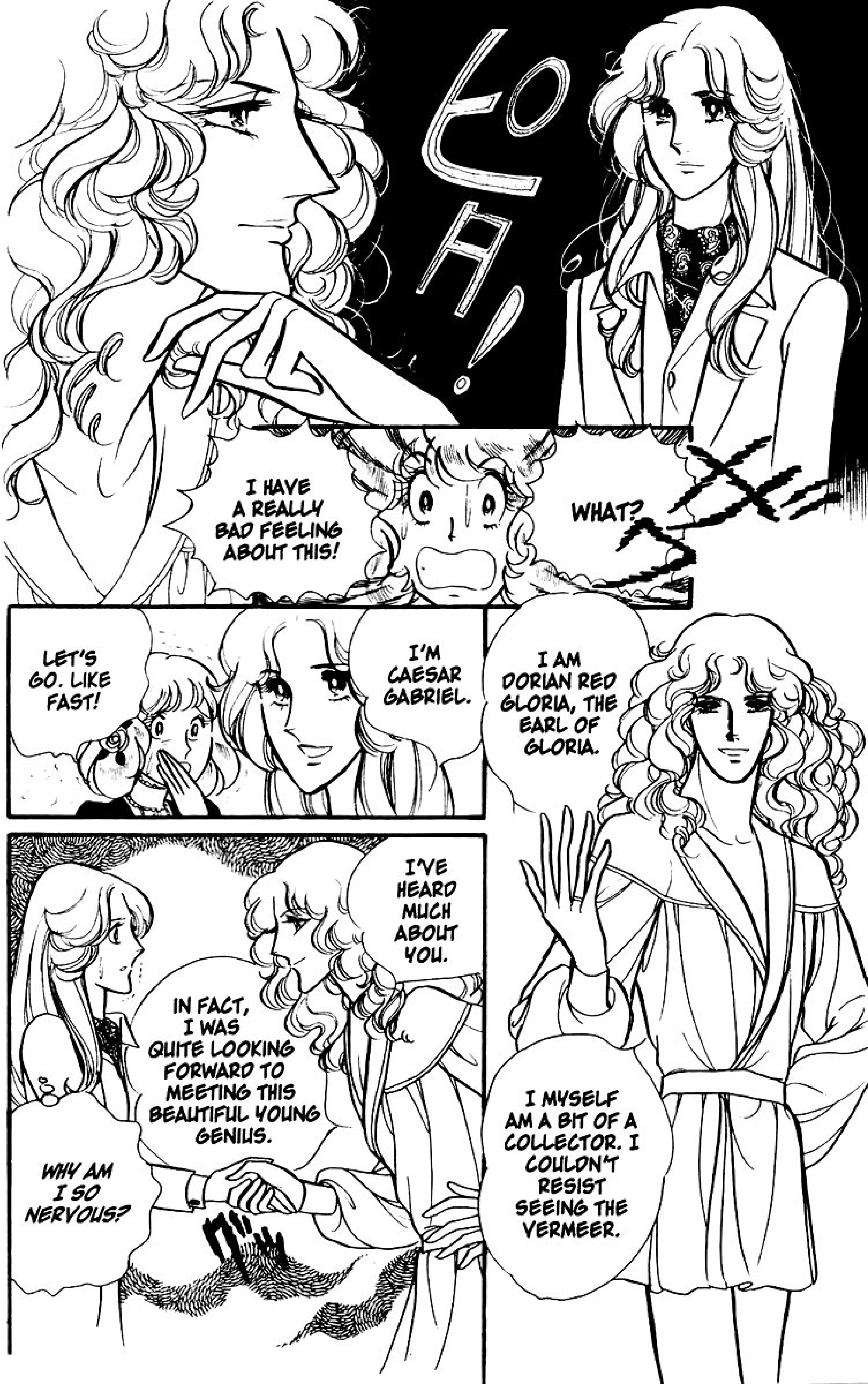

The three of us can talk telepathically.
NOW, DON'T BE SO HARD ON HIM. HIS BODY IS SPECIAL.
YEAH! AND I'M HUNGRY!
LEOPARD, YOU'RE SUCH A GLUTTON!
We've been friends since we were kids.
And we all share a secret.
Five summers ago, our adventure-loving parents took us to Peru, the home of the Inca empire.
We were just kids, but we got lost in the Nasca Highlands.
We wandered for three days and nights. We thought we were goners.
Then an old man appeared out of nowhere and saved us.
And he gave us these strange powers.
Super-human?
Maybe. And nobody else knows about this.

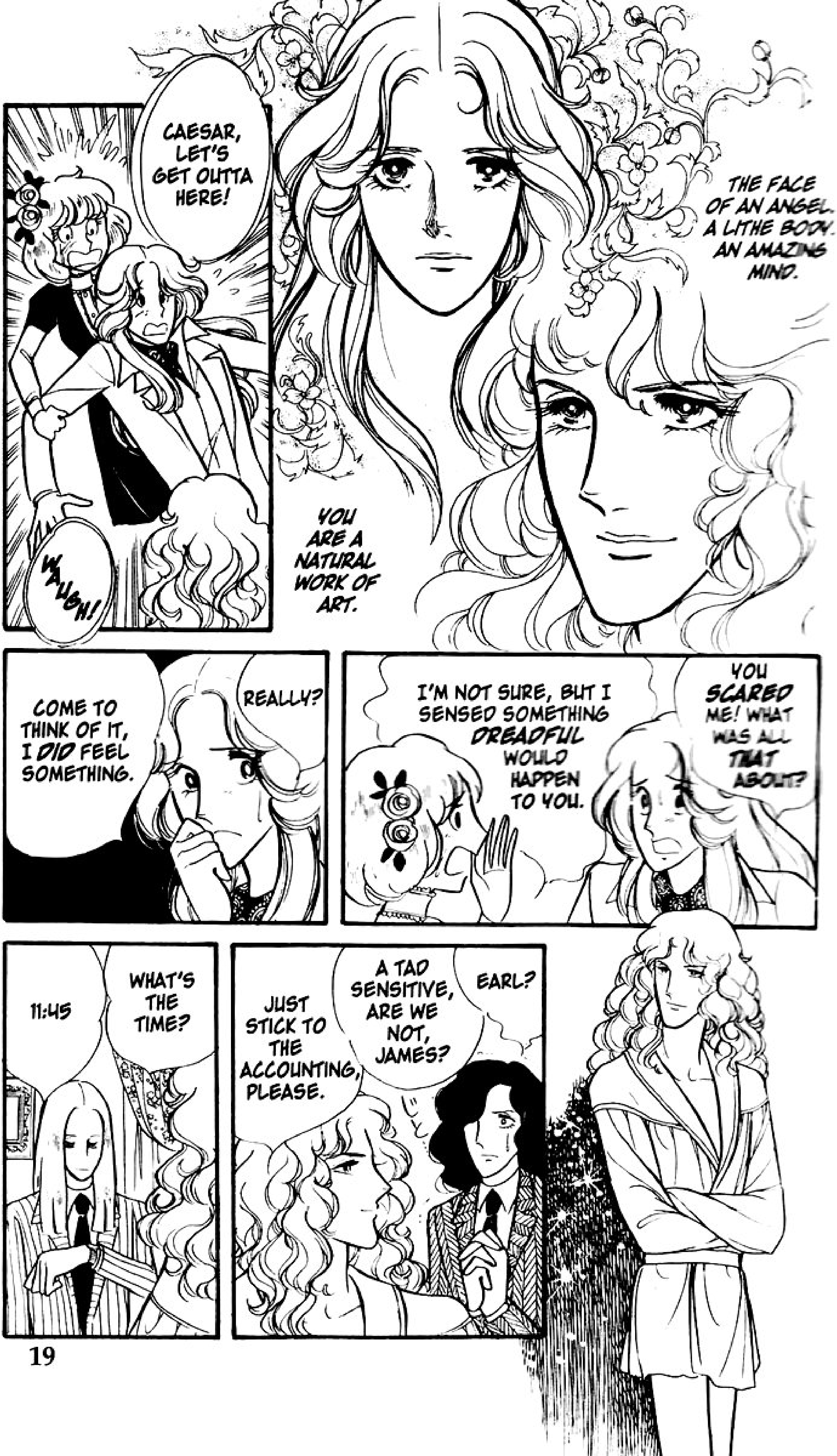

CAESAR GABRIEL WAS INTELLIGENT TO BEGIN WITH, BUT SOON AFTER HE DEVELOPED INTO A GENIUS. HE SPEAKS 20 LANGUAGES AND IS A VIRTUOSO ON PRACTICALLY EVERY MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. HE HAS 15 DOCTORATES AND IS THE UNIVERSITY'S YOUNGEST INSTRUCTOR.
SUGAR PLUM FOUND THAT HER FIVE SENSES WERE SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER. SHE ALSO DISCOVERED A SIXTH SENSE, THE ABILITY TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE.
LEOPARD SOLID DEVELOPED INTO A "SUPERMAN" OF SORTS. HIS STRENGTH AND ATHLETICISM ARE SUCH THAT HE COULD ENTER EVERY OLYMPIC SPORT AND SET SUPERHUMAN WORLD RECORDS IN EACH ONE.
We never did find out who that old man was.
I guess there are a lot of things out there that just can't be explained.
The three of us have different abilities, so there's a really good balance when we get together.
BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE TOMORROW?
I'M FREE.
I HAVE NOTHING PLANNED.
Maybe that old man wanted this, but the three of us will always be the best of friends and help each other.

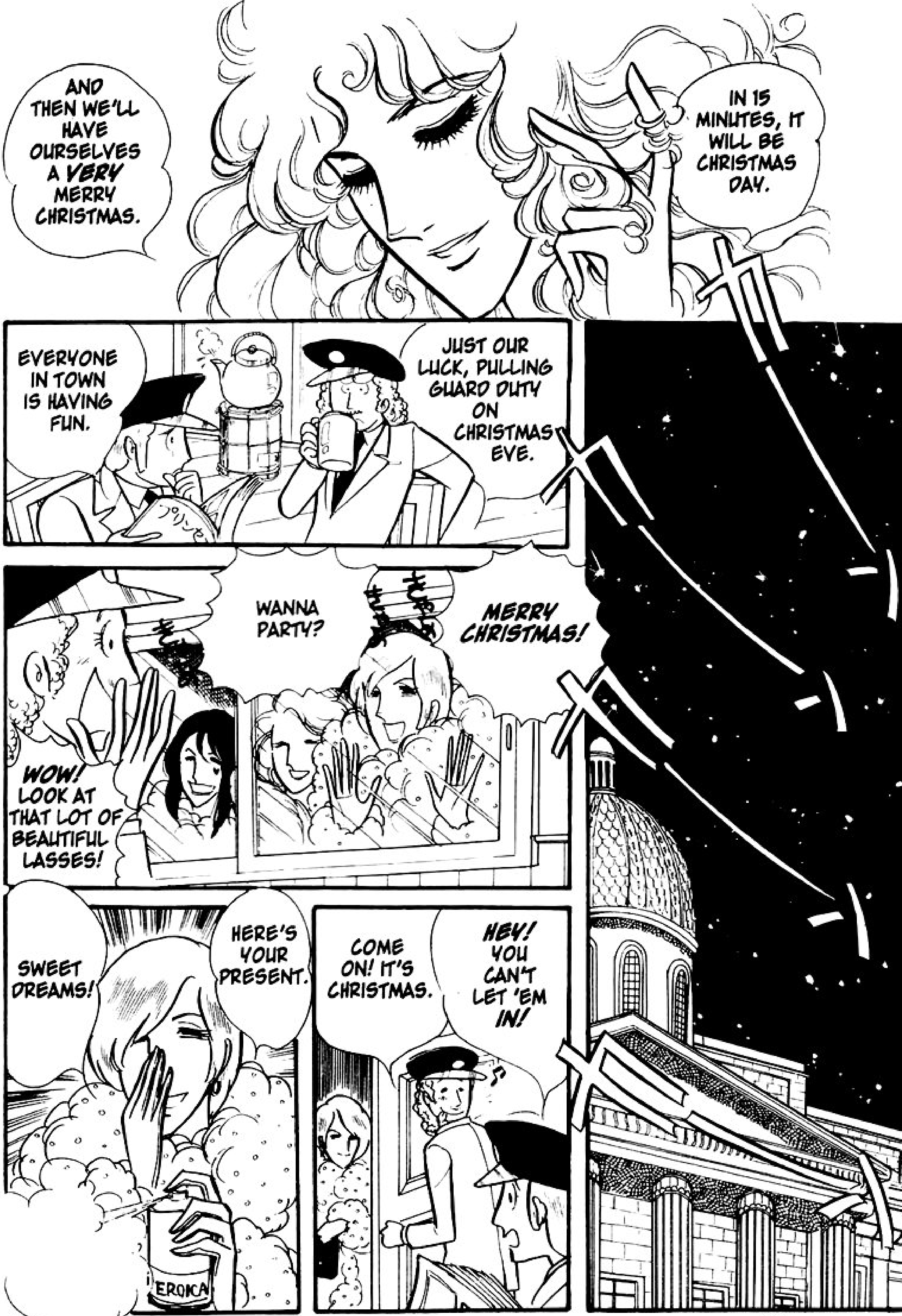

GOOD! BECAUSE I'VE BEEN INVITED TO A PARTY THROWN BY LADY DEVLIN, THAT FAMOUS ART COLLECTOR.
SHE APPARENTLY WANTS TO SHOW OFF VERMEER'S "CHRIST," WHICH SHE JUST BOUGHT. WHY NOT COME ALONG?
SOUNDS WONDERFUL! I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE A CLASSIC WORTH £300,000.
IF THERE'S GOOD FOOD, AND LOTS OF IT...
...COUNT ME IN!
THUS THE CURTAIN ROSE ON THE TRAGEDY.
WOW! THIS IS SO POSH!
WELCOME, PROFESSOR GABRIEL. I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
I'D BE MOST DELIGHTED IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO LOOK AT MY VERMEER.
WOW! BUT I DON'T THINK SHE NEEDS TO SHOW OFF HER MONEY.
SHH, SUGAR. IF THE WOMAN IS TELEPATHIC SHE'LL BOOT US OUT RIGHT QUICK.

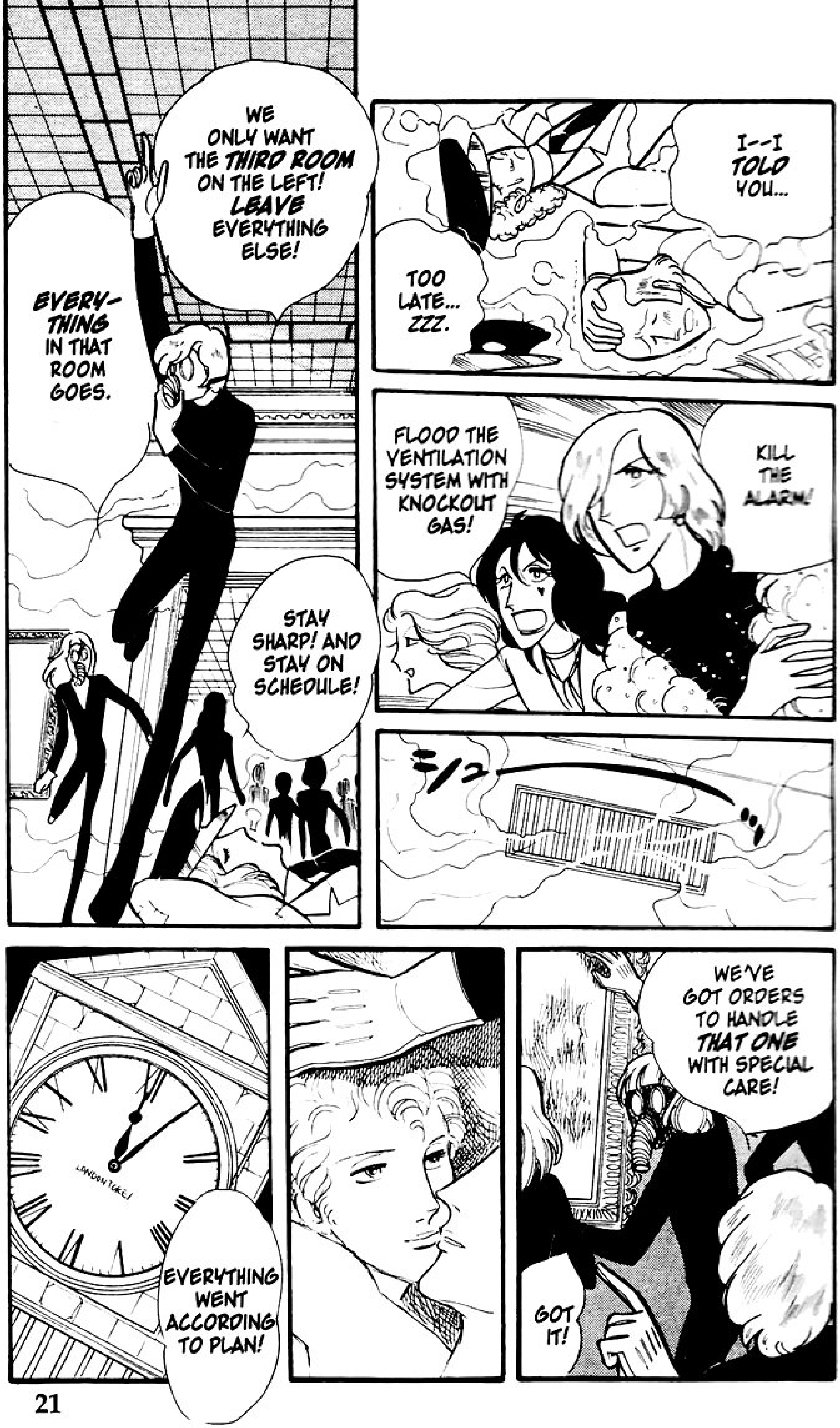

LOOK AT ALL THESE WORKS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MUSEUM.
SEE YA. FOOD FIRST. TALK LATER.
MIND YOUR MANNERS, LEOPARD.
AH, SO *THAT'S* CAESAR GABRIEL.
HE'S HANDSOME!
HE'S BLESSED WITH BOTH LOOKS *AND* BRAINS.
WHEREVER HE GOES, CAESAR IS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
SUGAR! SOMEONE IS STARING AT ME.
STOP BEING COY. ***EVERYONE*** STARES AT YOU.
NO NO! THIS IS DIFFERENT!
I FEEL A SHARP STARE FROM OVER THERE.
WHERE?

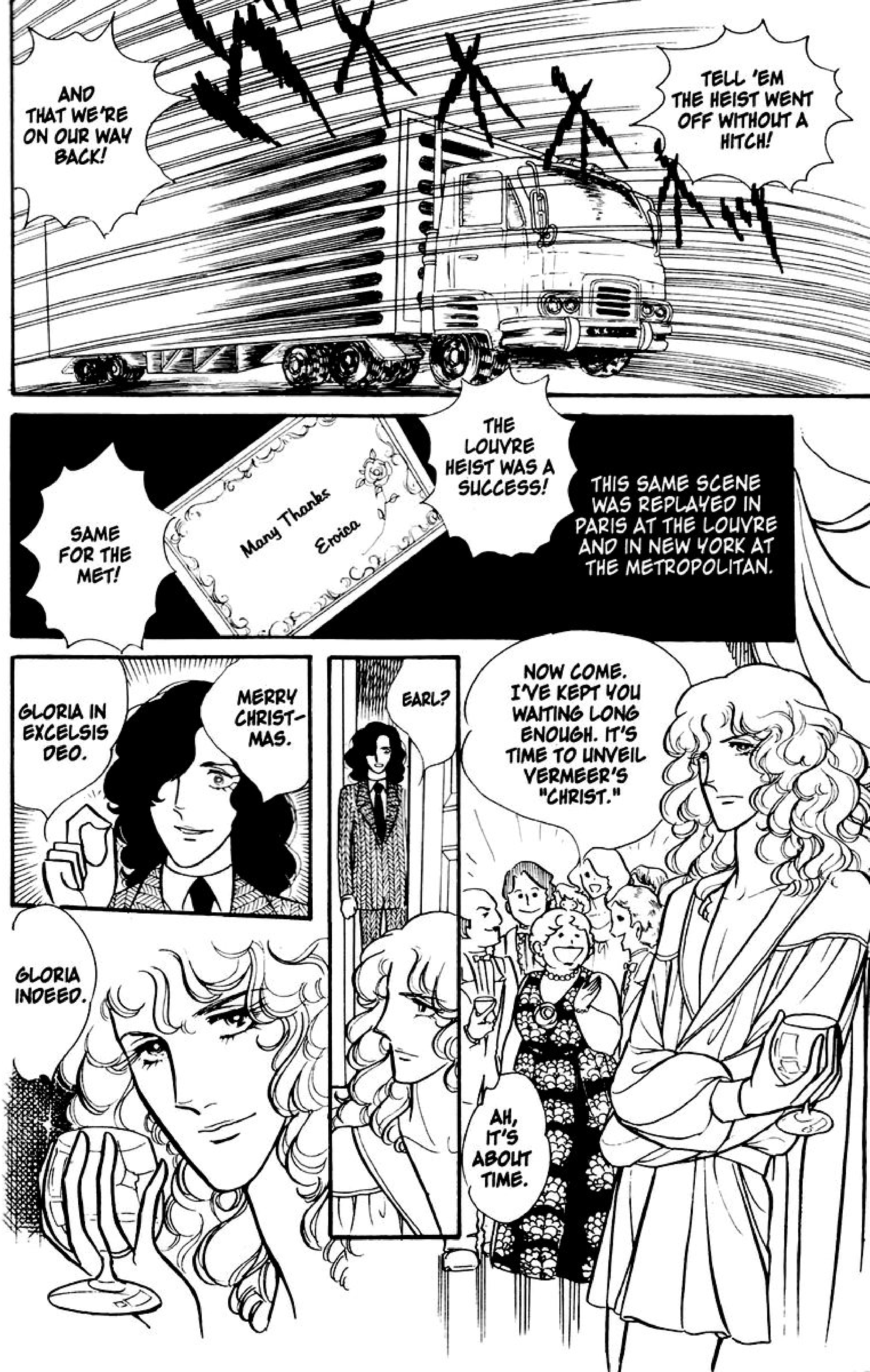

IT'S EARL GOLDILOCKS!
MAKE-UP! LIPSTICK!
SO WE MEET AGAIN, MY LADY.
HAD ENOUGH OF THAT PAINTING?
QUITE BEAUTIFUL, I MUST SAY
OH, EARL, YOU'RE SUCH A...
WAIT! HE'S NOT LOOKING AT ME, BUT AT...
" " " ...

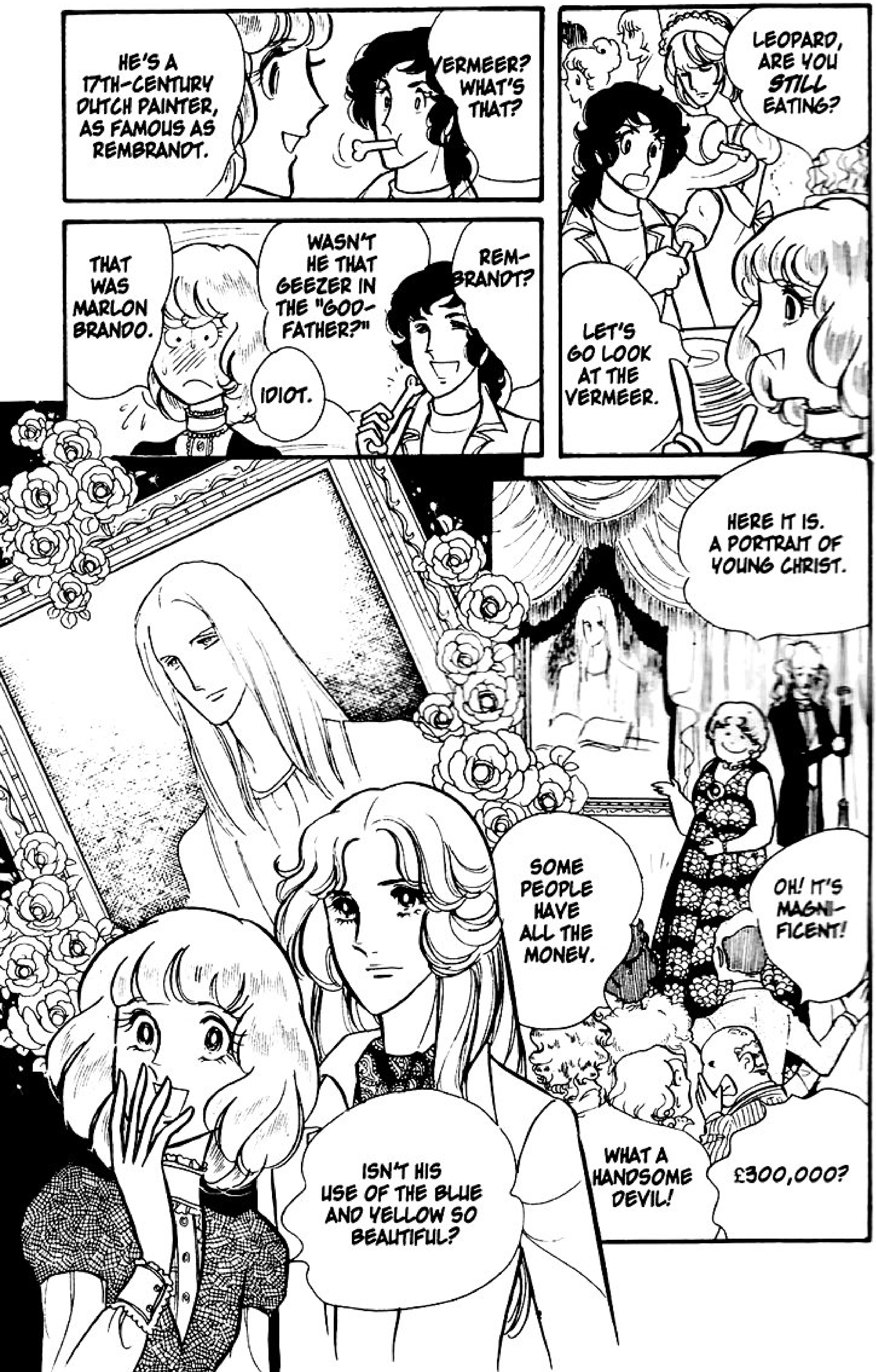

ピク!
WHAT?
I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!
I'M CAESAR GABRIEL.
LET'S GO. LIKE FAST!
I AM DORIAN RED GLORIA, THE EARL OF GLORIA.
I MYSELF AM A BIT OF A COLLECTOR. I COULDN'T RESIST SEEING THE VERMEER.
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU.
IN FACT, I WAS QUITE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GENIUS.
WHY AM I SO NERVOUS?

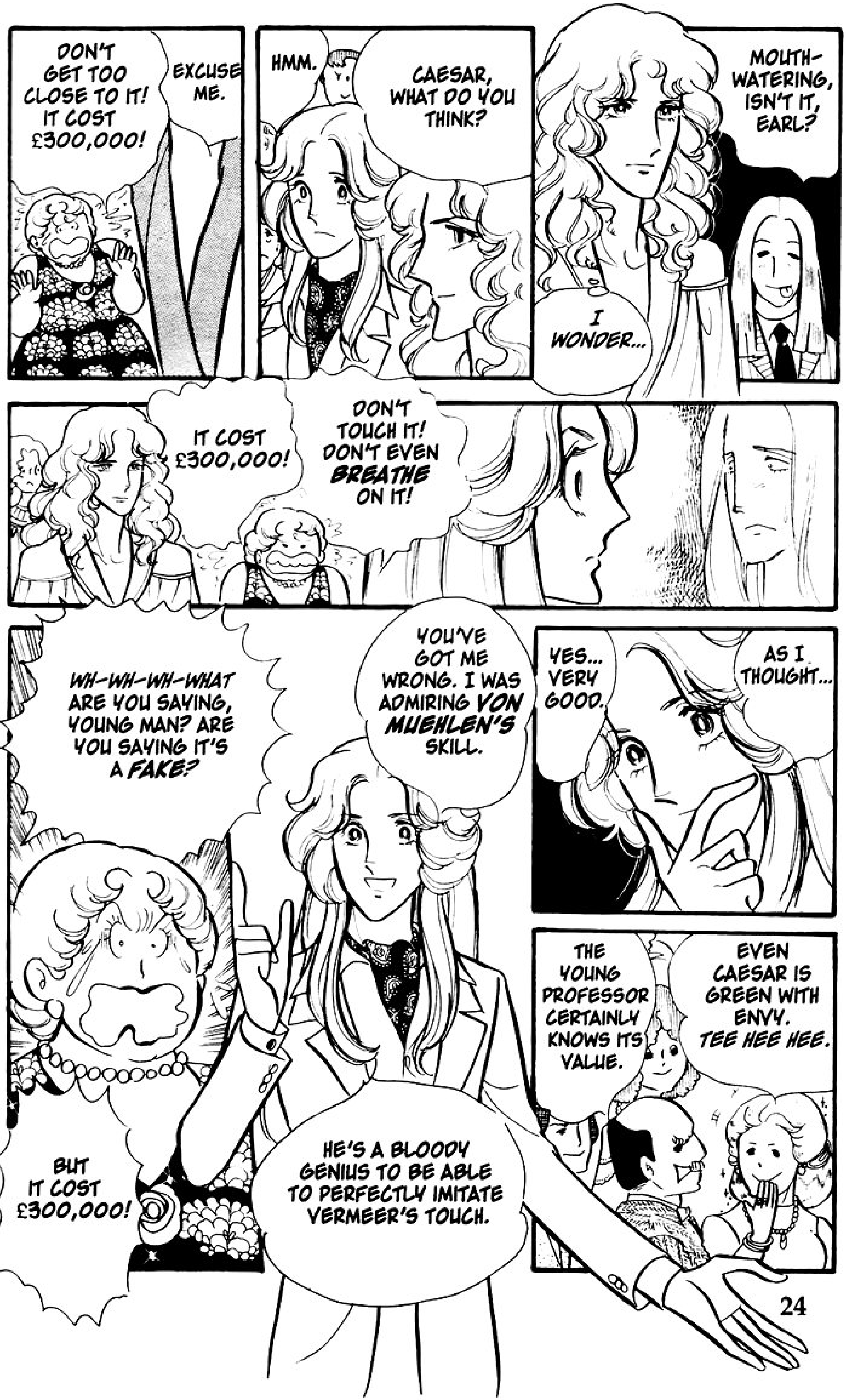

THE FACE OF AN ANGEL. A LITHE BODY. AN AMAZING MIND.
YOU ARE A NATURAL WORK OF ART.
CAESAR, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
WAUGH!
YOU SCARED ME! WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I SENSED SOMETHING DREADFUL WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU.
REALLY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DID FEEL SOMETHING.
EARL?
A TAD SENSITIVE, ARE WE NOT, JAMES?
JUST STICK TO THE ACCOUNTING, PLEASE.
WHAT'S THE TIME?
11:45

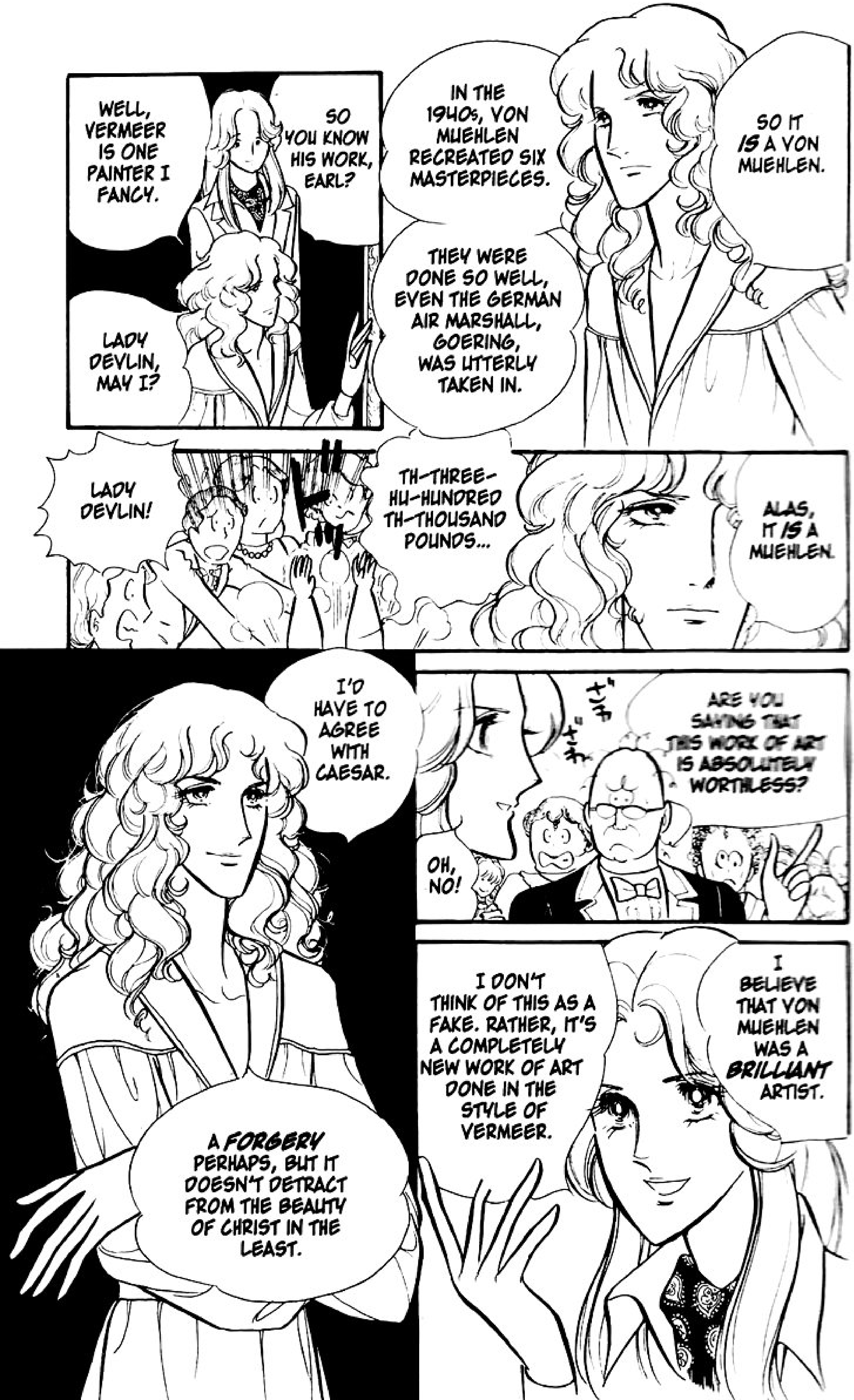

IN 15 MINUTES, IT WILL BE CHRISTMAS DAY.
AND THEN WE'LL HAVE OURSELVES A *VERY* MERRY CHRISTMAS.
JUST OUR LUCK, PULLING GUARD DUTY ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
EVERYONE IN TOWN IS HAVING FUN.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
WANNA PARTY?
WOW! LOOK AT THAT LOT OF BEAUTIFUL LASSES!
HEY! YOU CAN'T LET 'EM *IN!*
COME ON! IT'S CHRISTMAS.
HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.
SWEET DREAMS!
EROICA

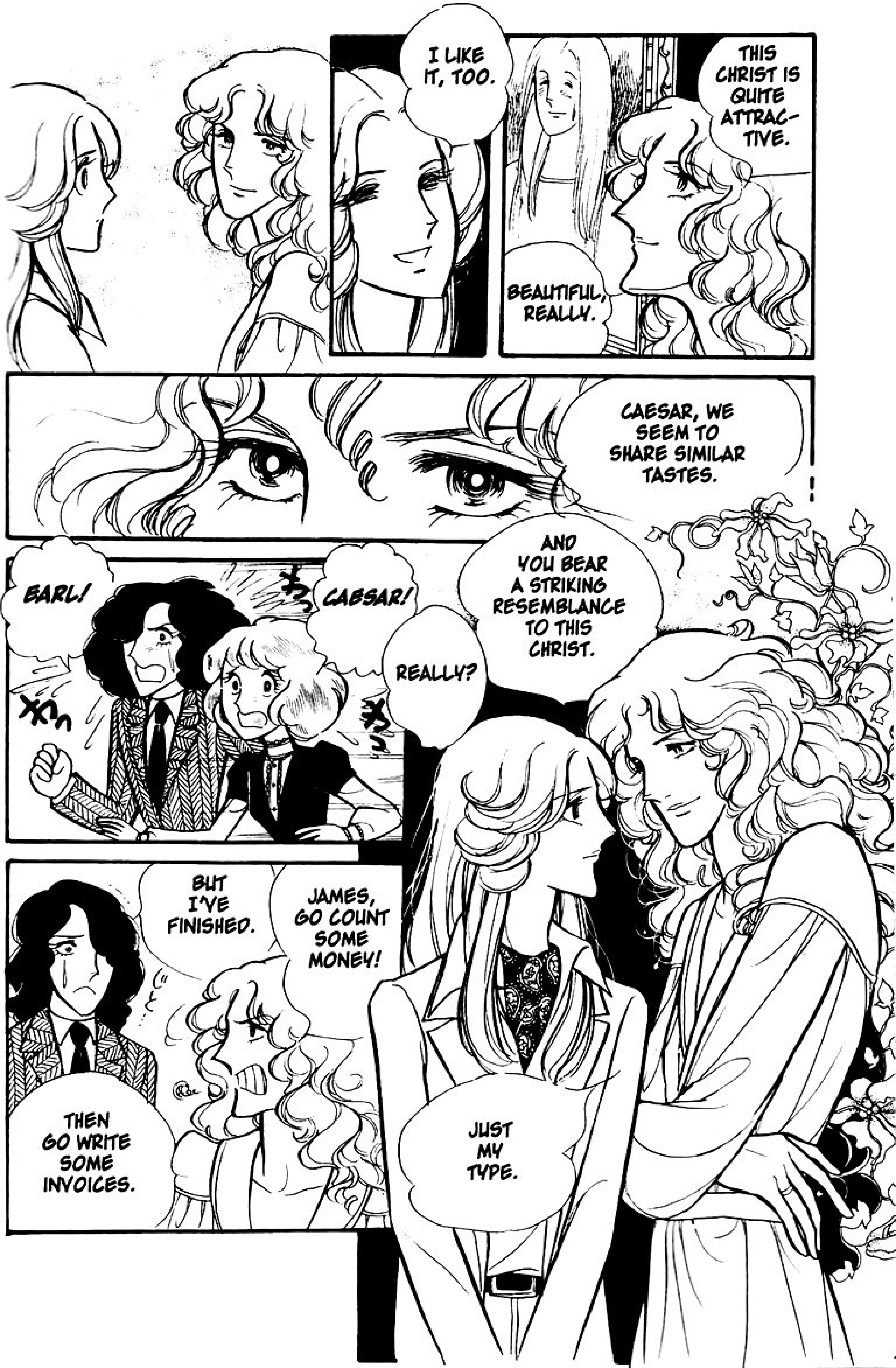

I--I TOLD YOU...
TOO LATE... ZZZ.
KILL THE ALARM!
FLOOD THE VENTILATION SYSTEM WITH KNOCKOUT GAS!
WE ONLY WANT THE THIRD ROOM ON THE LEFT! LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE!
EVERYTHING IN THAT ROOM GOES.
STAY SHARP! AND STAY ON SCHEDULE!
WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO HANDLE THAT ONE WITH SPECIAL CARE!
GOT IT!
LONDON TEKEI
EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN!

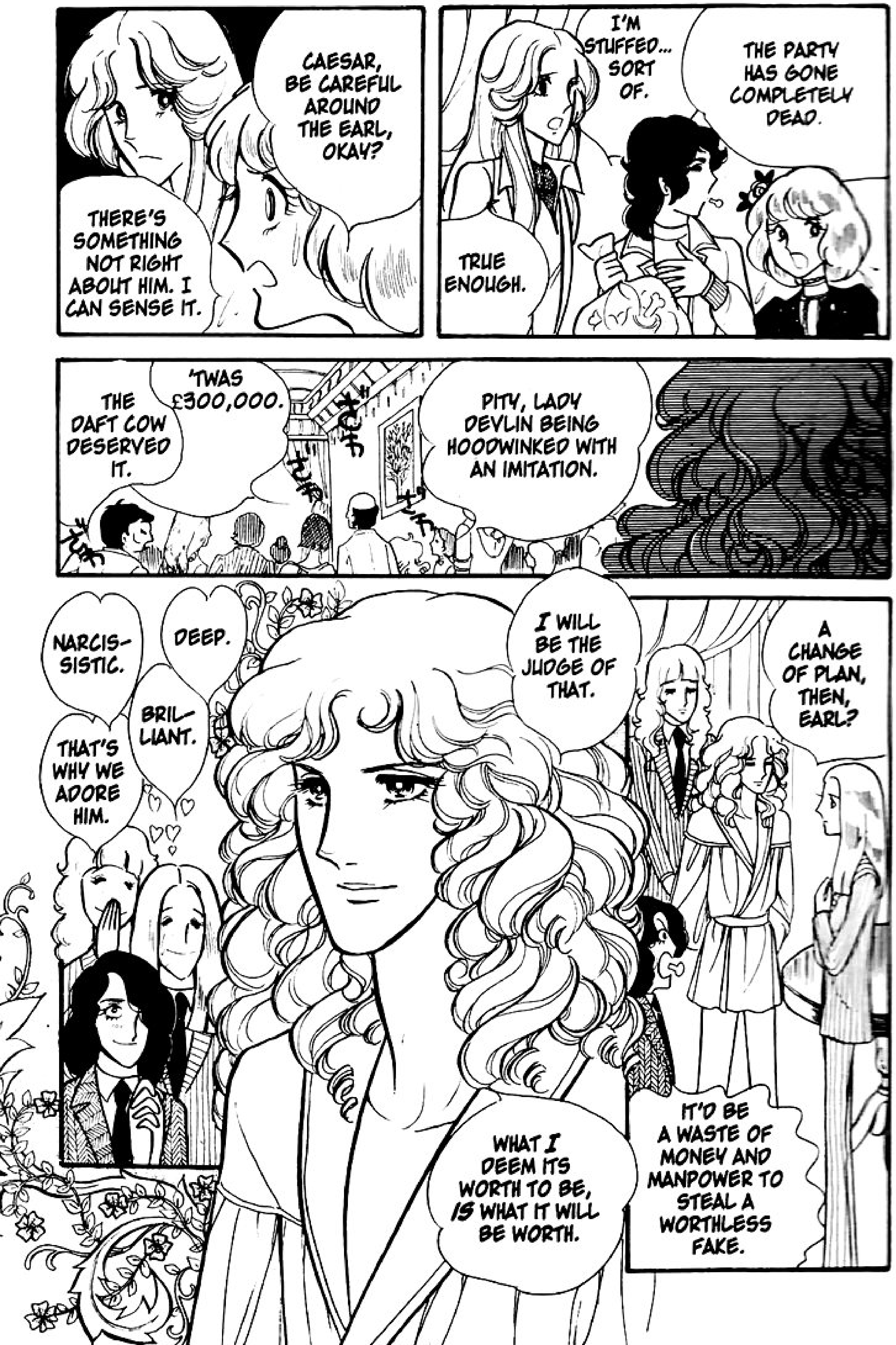

TELL 'EM THE HEIST WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH!
AND THAT WE'RE ON OUR WAY BACK!
THIS SAME SCENE WAS REPLAYED IN PARIS AT THE LOUVRE AND IN NEW YORK AT THE METROPOLITAN.
THE LOUVRE HEIST WAS A SUCCESS!
Many Thanks Eroica
SAME FOR THE MET!
NOW COME. I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING LONG ENOUGH. IT'S TIME TO UNVEIL VERMEER'S "CHRIST."
AH, IT'S ABOUT TIME.
EARL?
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.
GLORIA INDEED.

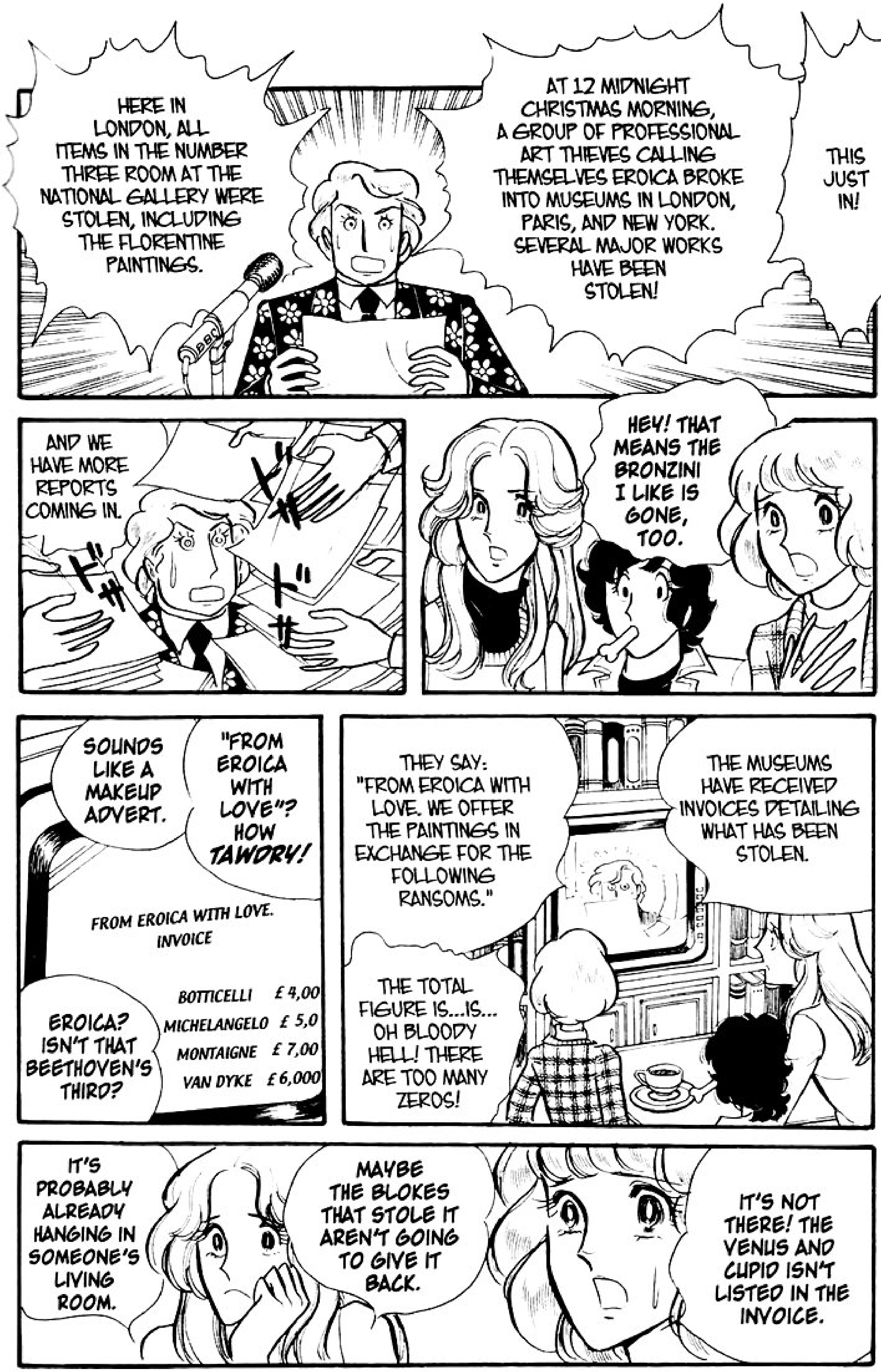

LEOPARD, ARE YOU *STILL* EATING?
LET'S GO LOOK AT THE VERMEER.
VERMEER? WHAT'S THAT?
HE'S A 17TH-CENTURY DUTCH PAINTER, AS FAMOUS AS REMBRANDT.
REMBRANDT?
WASN'T HE THAT GEEZER IN THE "GODFATHER?"
THAT WAS MARLON BRANDO.
IDIOT.
HERE IT IS. A PORTRAIT OF YOUNG CHRIST.
OH! IT'S MAGNIFICENT!
SOME PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE MONEY.
£300,000?
WHAT A HANDSOME DEVIL!
ISN'T HIS USE OF THE BLUE AND YELLOW SO BEAUTIFUL?

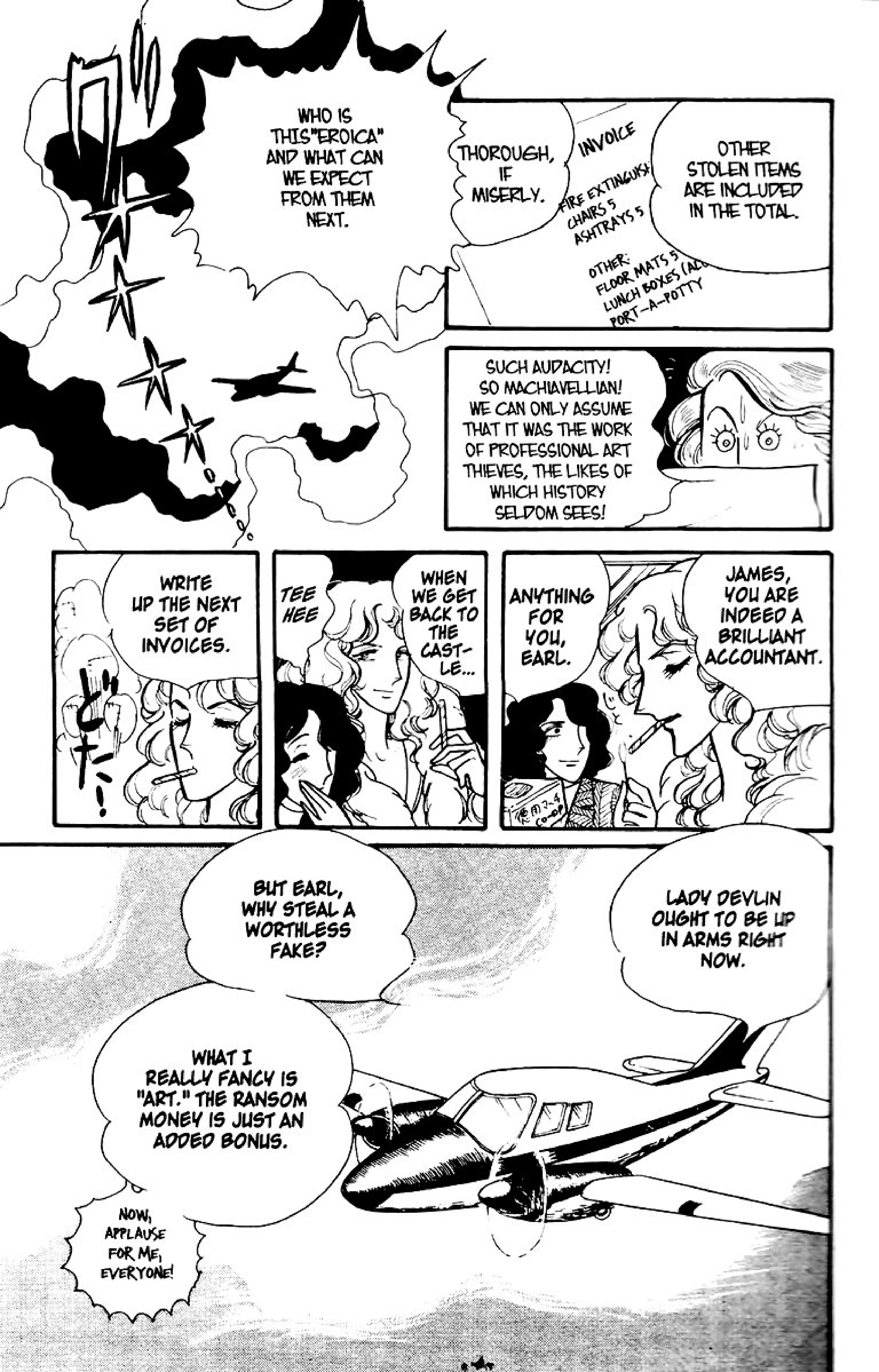

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO IT! IT COST £300,000!
EXCUSE ME.
HMM.
CAESAR, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MOUTH-WATERING, ISN'T IT, EARL?
I WONDER...
IT COST £300,000!
DON'T TOUCH IT! DON'T EVEN *BREATHE* ON IT!
YOU'VE GOT ME WRONG. I WAS ADMIRING *VON MUEHLEN'S* SKILL.
WH-WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YOUNG MAN? ARE YOU SAYING IT'S A *FAKE?*
YES... VERY GOOD.
AS I THOUGHT...
THE YOUNG PROFESSOR CERTAINLY KNOWS ITS VALUE.
EVEN CAESAR IS GREEN WITH ENVY. *TEE HEE HEE.*
HE'S A BLOODY GENIUS TO BE ABLE TO PERFECTLY IMITATE VERMEER'S TOUCH.
BUT IT COST £300,000!

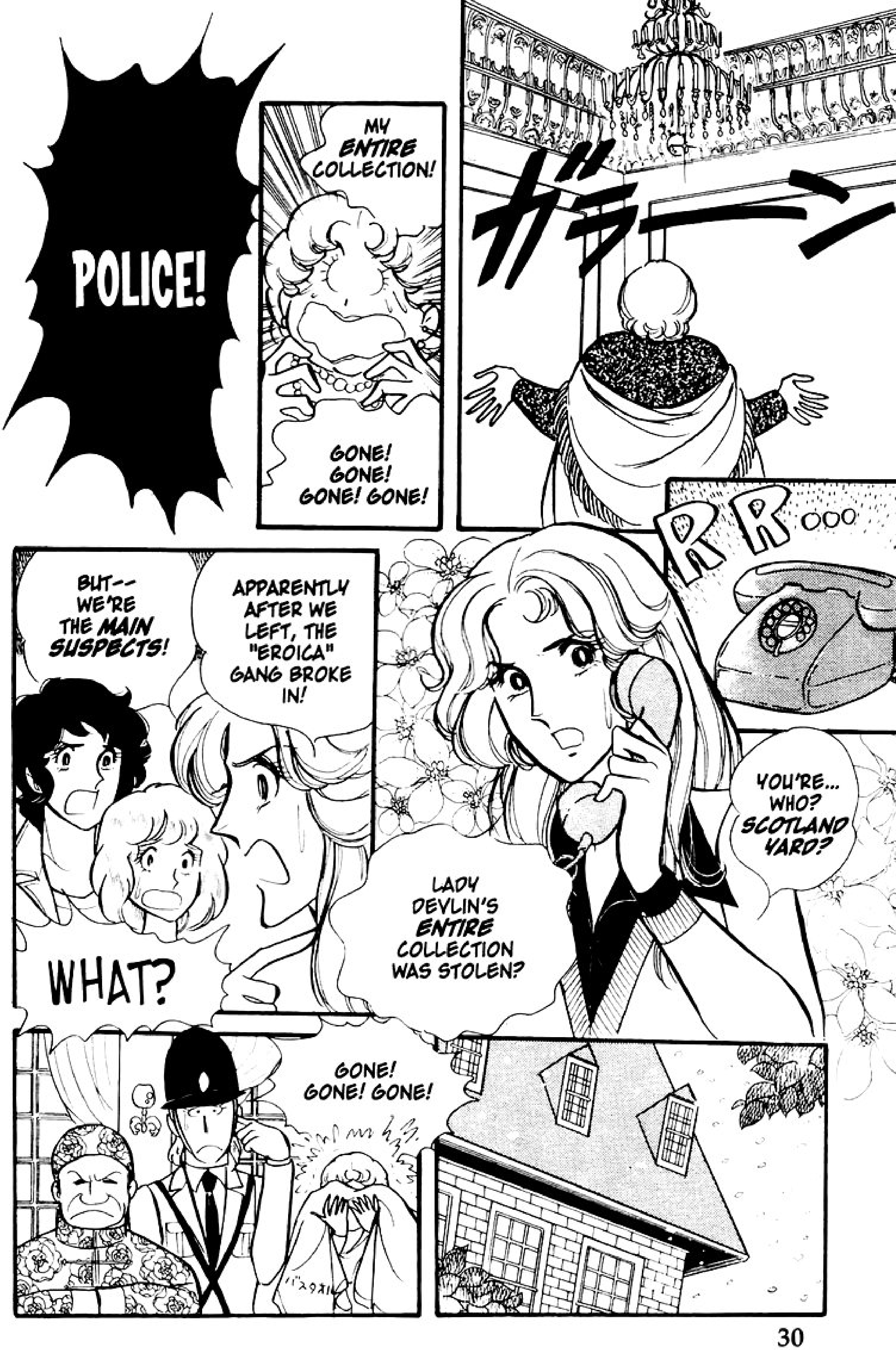

SO IT *IS* A VON MUEHLEN.
IN THE 1940s, VON MUEHLEN RECREATED SIX MASTERPIECES.
THEY WERE DONE SO WELL, EVEN THE GERMAN AIR MARSHALL, GOERING, WAS UTTERLY TAKEN IN.
SO YOU KNOW HIS WORK, EARL?
WELL, VERMEER IS ONE PAINTER I FANCY.
LADY DEVLIN, MAY I?
ALAS, IT *IS* A MUEHLEN.
TH-THREE-HU-HUNDRED TH-THOUSAND POUNDS...
LADY DEVLIN!
ざわ
ざわ
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS WORK OF ART IS ABSOLUTELY WORTHLESS?
OH, NO!
I BELIEVE THAT VON MUEHLEN WAS A *BRILLIANT* ARTIST.
I DON'T THINK OF THIS AS A FAKE. RATHER, IT'S A COMPLETELY NEW WORK OF ART DONE IN THE STYLE OF VERMEER.
I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH CAESAR.
A *FORGERY* PERHAPS, BUT IT DOESN'T DETRACT FROM THE BEAUTY OF CHRIST IN THE LEAST.

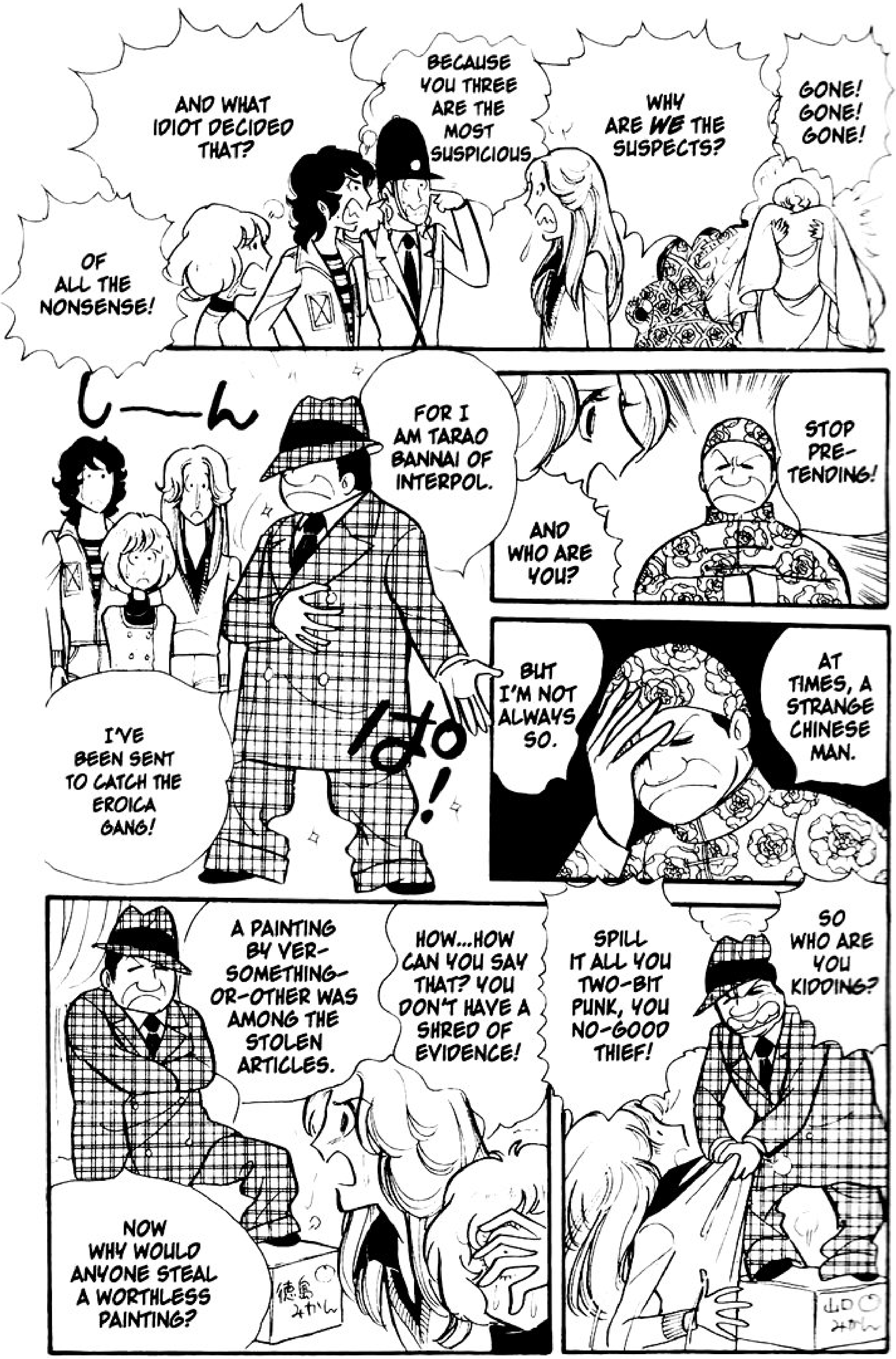

THIS CHRIST IS QUITE ATTRACTIVE.
BEAUTIFUL, REALLY.
I LIKE IT, TOO.
CAESAR, WE SEEM TO SHARE SIMILAR TASTES.
AND YOU BEAR A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THIS CHRIST.
REALLY?
JUST MY TYPE.
CAESAR!
EARL!
JAMES, GO COUNT SOME MONEY!
BUT I'VE FINISHED.
THEN GO WRITE SOME INVOICES.

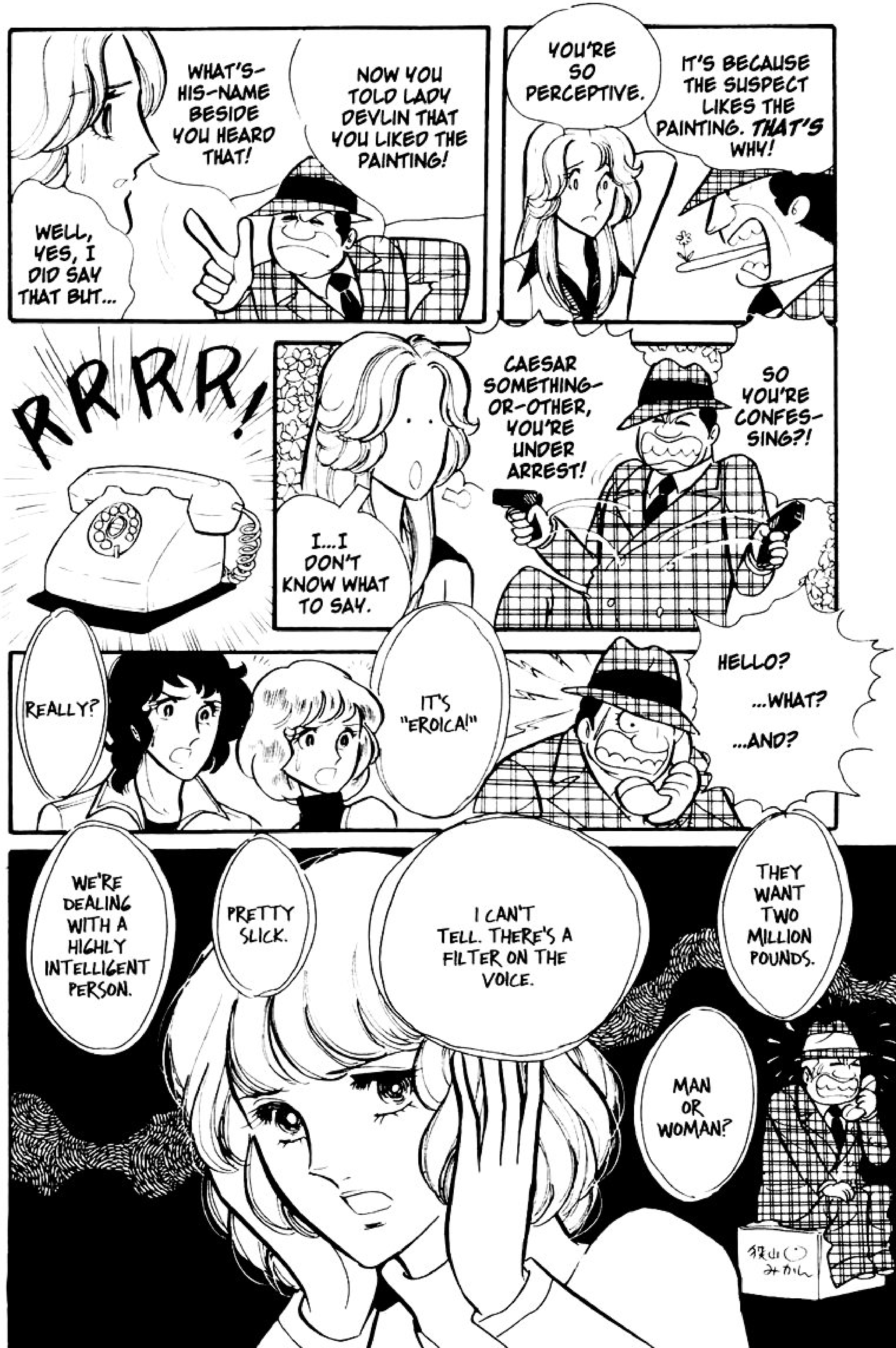

THE PARTY HAS GONE COMPLETELY DEAD.
I'M STUFFED... SORT OF.
TRUE ENOUGH.
CAESAR, BE CAREFUL AROUND THE EARL, OKAY?
THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT ABOUT HIM. I CAN SENSE IT.
PITY, LADY DEVLIN BEING HOODWINKED WITH AN IMITATION.
ざわ
ざわ
'TWAS £300,000.
THE DAFT COW DESERVED IT.
ざわ
A CHANGE OF PLAN, THEN, EARL?
IT'D BE A WASTE OF MONEY AND MANPOWER TO STEAL A WORTHLESS FAKE.
I WILL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.
WHAT *I* DEEM ITS WORTH TO BE, *IS* WHAT IT WILL BE WORTH.
DEEP.
NARCISSISTIC.
BRILLIANT.
THAT'S WHY WE ADORE HIM.

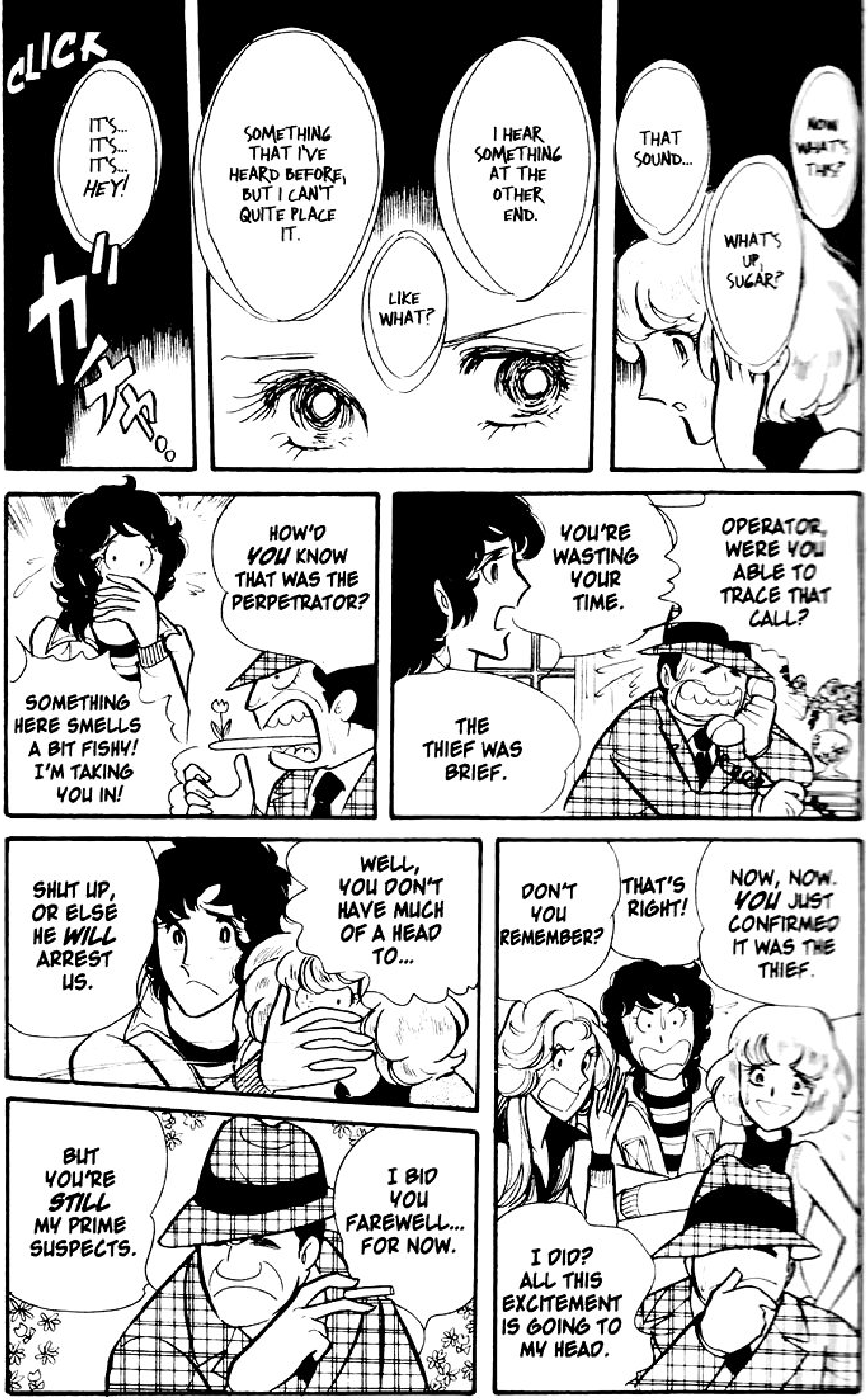

THIS JUST IN!
AT 12 MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS MORNING, A GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL ART THIEVES CALLING THEMSELVES EROICA BROKE INTO MUSEUMS IN LONDON, PARIS, AND NEW YORK. SEVERAL MAJOR WORKS HAVE BEEN STOLEN!
HERE IN LONDON, ALL ITEMS IN THE NUMBER THREE ROOM AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY WERE STOLEN, INCLUDING THE FLORENTINE PAINTINGS.
BBC
HEY! THAT MEANS THE BRONZINI I LIKE IS GONE, TOO.
AND WE HAVE MORE REPORTS COMING IN.
ドドド
THE MUSEUMS HAVE RECEIVED INVOICES DETAILING WHAT HAS BEEN STOLEN.
THEY SAY: "FROM EROICA WITH LOVE. WE OFFER THE PAINTINGS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FOLLOWING RANSOMS."
THE TOTAL FIGURE IS...IS... OH BLOODY HELL! THERE ARE TOO MANY ZEROS!
"FROM EROICA WITH LOVE"? HOW *TAWDRY!*
SOUNDS LIKE A MAKEUP ADVERT.
FROM EROICA WITH LOVE.
INVOICE
BOTTICELLI £ 4,00
MICHELANGELO £ 5,0
MONTAIGNE £ 7,00
VAN DYKE £ 6,000
EROICA? ISN'T THAT BEETHOVEN'S THIRD?
IT'S NOT THERE! THE VENUS AND CUPID ISN'T LISTED IN THE INVOICE.
MAYBE THE BLOKES THAT STOLE IT AREN'T GOING TO GIVE IT BACK.
IT'S PROBABLY ALREADY HANGING IN SOMEONE'S LIVING ROOM.

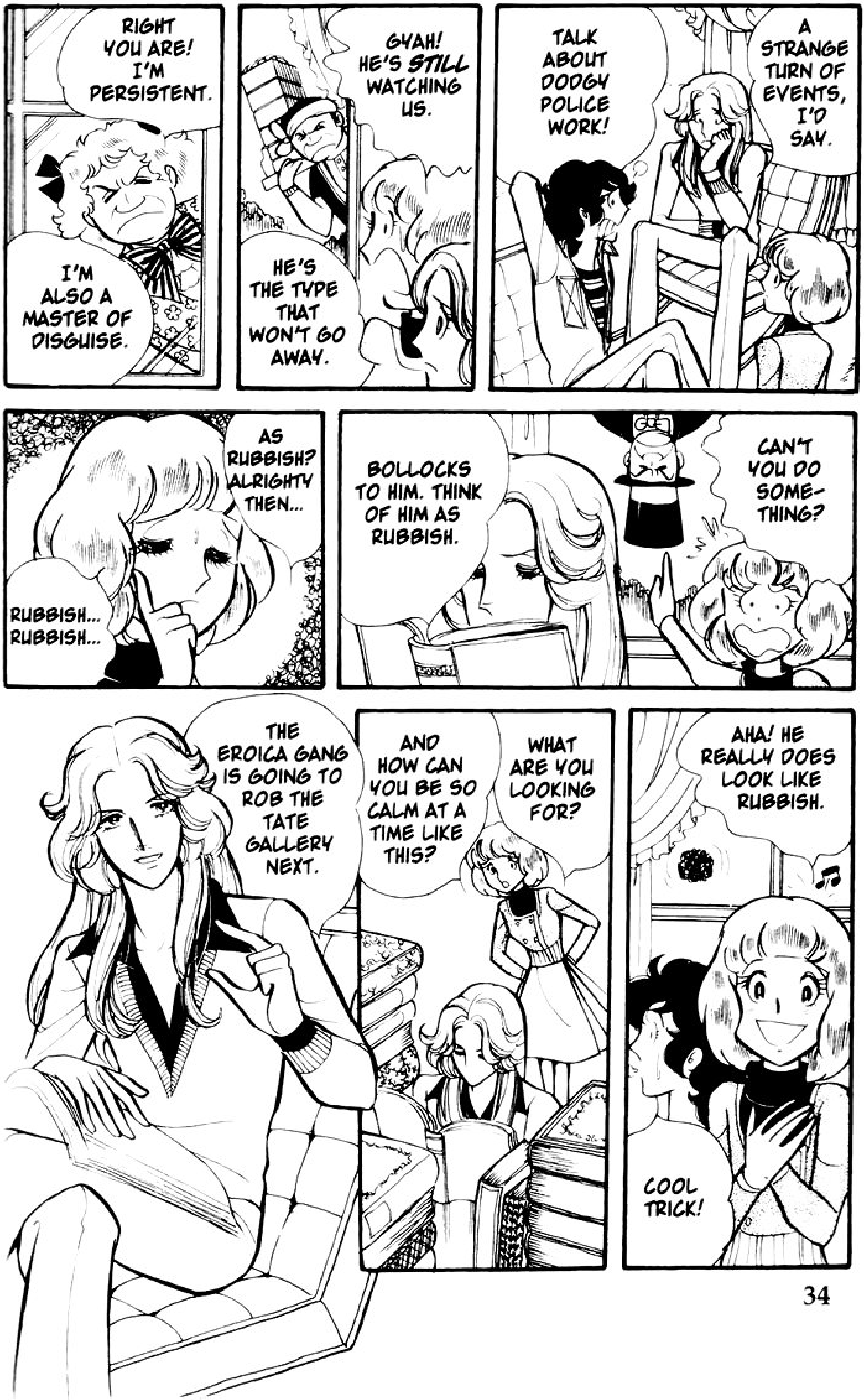

INVOICE
FIRE EXTINGUISH
CHAIRS 5
ASHTRAYS 5
OTHER:
FLOOR MATS 5
LUNCH BOXES (AL
PORT-A-POTTY
OTHER STOLEN ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL.
THOROUGH, IF MISERLY.
SUCH AUDACITY! SO MACHIAVELLIAN! WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF PROFESSIONAL ART THIEVES, THE LIKES OF WHICH HISTORY SELDOM SEES!
WHO IS THIS "EROICA" AND WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THEM NEXT.
JAMES, YOU ARE INDEED A BRILLIANT ACCOUNTANT.
ANYTHING FOR YOU, EARL.
WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE CASTLE...
TEE HEE
WRITE UP THE NEXT SET OF INVOICES.
どすーー!
LADY DEVLIN OUGHT TO BE UP IN ARMS RIGHT NOW.
BUT EARL, WHY STEAL A WORTHLESS FAKE?
WHAT I REALLY FANCY IS "ART." THE RANSOM MONEY IS JUST AN ADDED BONUS.
NOW, APPLAUSE FOR ME, EVERYONE!

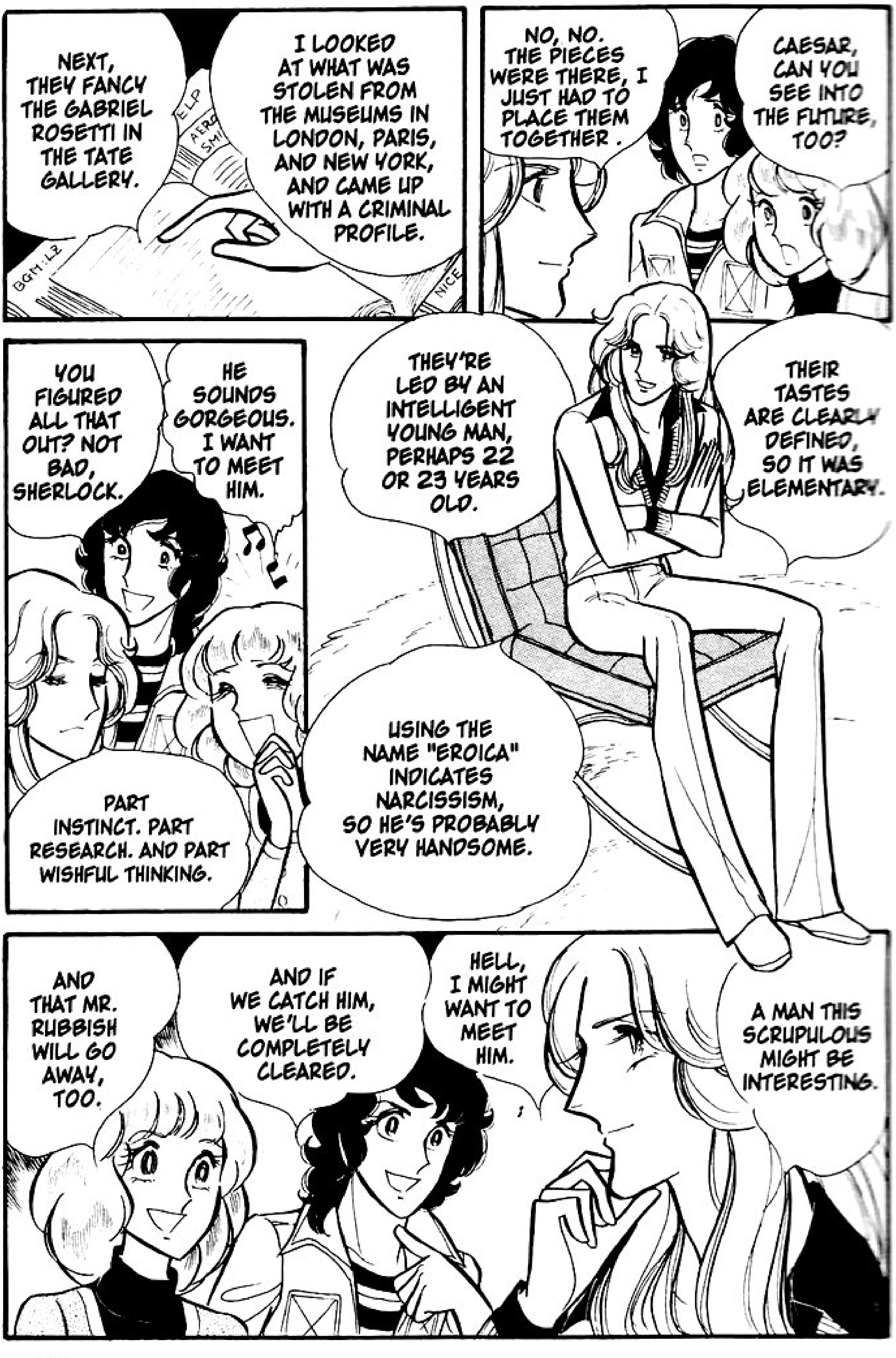

ガラーン
MY *ENTIRE* COLLECTION!
GONE! GONE! GONE! GONE!
POLICE!
RR...
YOU'RE... WHO? *SCOTLAND YARD?*
LADY DEVLIN'S *ENTIRE* COLLECTION WAS STOLEN?
APPARENTLY AFTER WE LEFT, THE "EROICA" GANG BROKE IN!
BUT-- WE'RE THE *MAIN SUSPECTS!*
WHAT?
GONE! GONE! GONE!
バスタオル

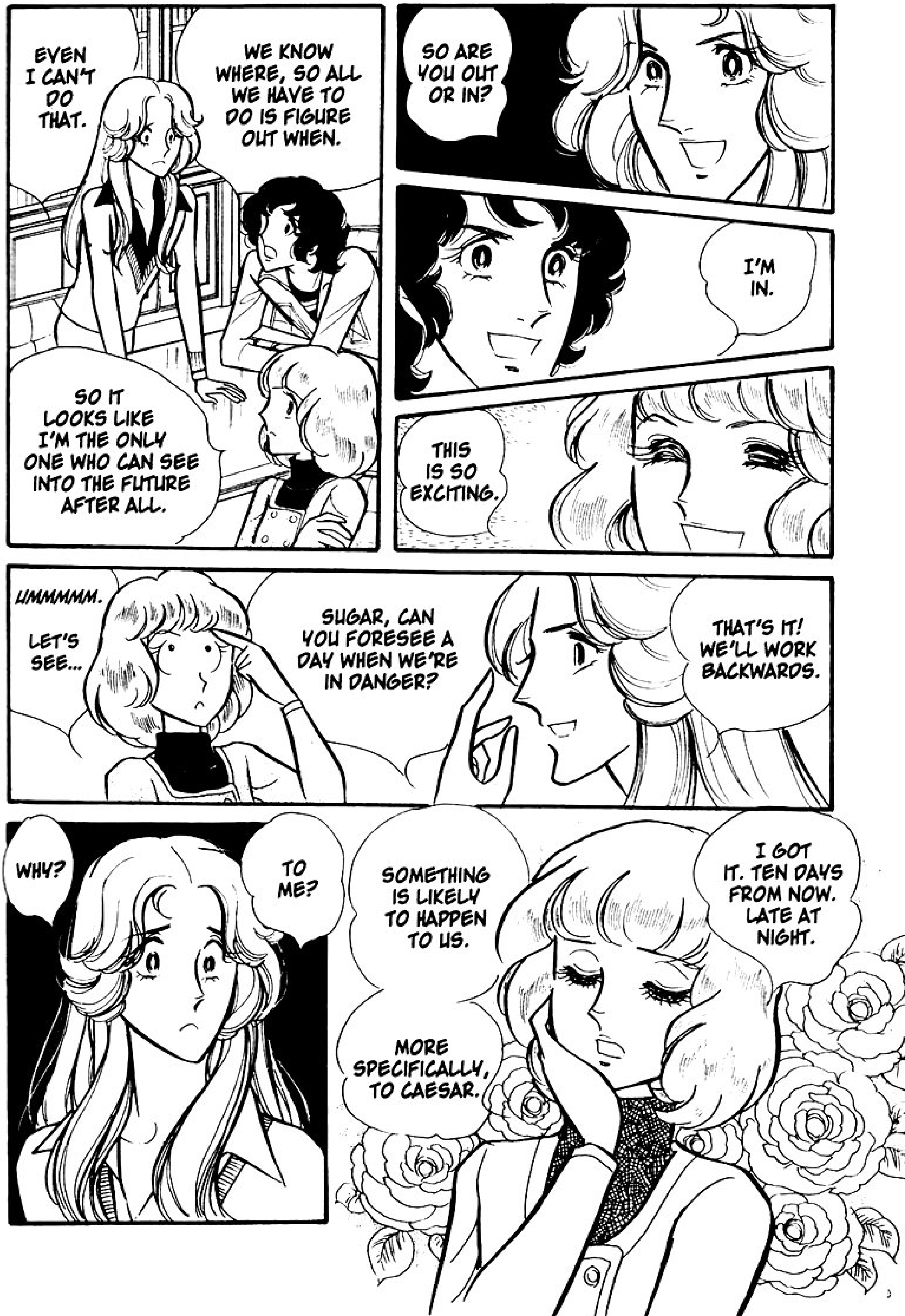

GONE! GONE! GONE!
WHY ARE *WE* THE SUSPECTS?
BECAUSE YOU THREE ARE THE MOST SUSPICIOUS
AND WHAT IDIOT DECIDED THAT?
OF ALL THE NONSENSE!
STOP PRETENDING!
AND WHO ARE YOU?
AT TIMES, A STRANGE CHINESE MAN.
BUT I'M NOT ALWAYS SO.
しーん
FOR I AM TARAO BANNAI OF INTERPOL.
はっ!
I'VE BEEN SENT TO CATCH THE EROICA GANG!
SO WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?
SPILL IT ALL YOU TWO-BIT PUNK, YOU NO-GOOD THIEF!
山口みかん
HOW...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF EVIDENCE!
A PAINTING BY VER-SOMETHING-OR-OTHER WAS AMONG THE STOLEN ARTICLES.
NOW WHY WOULD ANYONE STEAL A WORTHLESS PAINTING?
徳島みかん

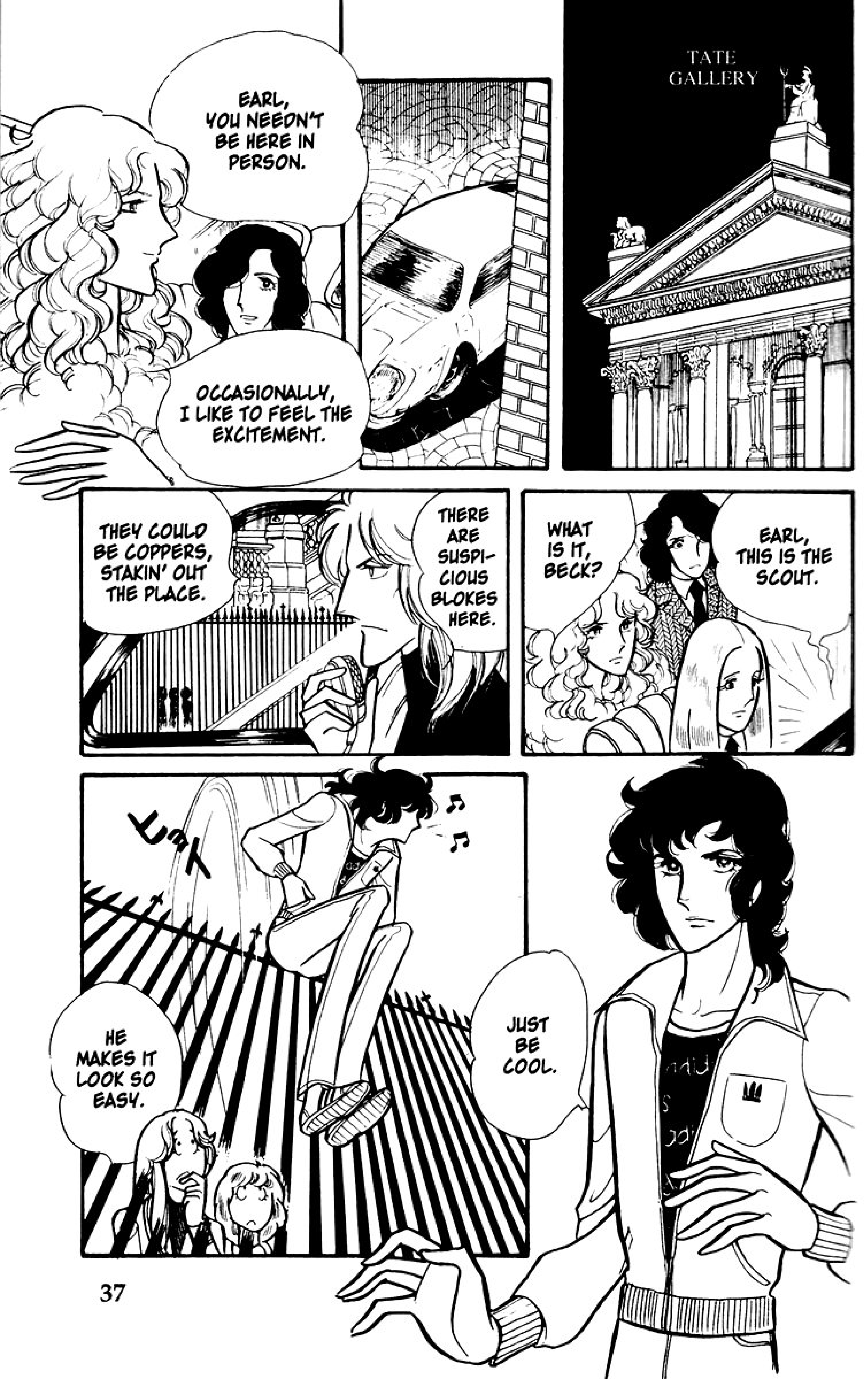

WHAT'S-HIS-NAME BESIDE YOU HEARD THAT!
NOW YOU TOLD LADY DEVLIN THAT YOU LIKED THE PAINTING!
WELL, YES, I DID SAY THAT BUT...
YOU'RE SO PERCEPTIVE.
IT'S BECAUSE THE SUSPECT LIKES THE PAINTING. *THAT'S* WHY!
RRRR!
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
CAESAR SOMETHING-OR-OTHER, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
SO YOU'RE CONFESSING?!
REALLY?
IT'S "EROICA!"
HELLO? ...WHAT? ...AND?
WE'RE DEALING WITH A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT PERSON.
PRETTY SLICK.
I CAN'T TELL. THERE'S A FILTER ON THE VOICE.
THEY WANT TWO MILLION POUNDS.
MAN OR WOMAN?
狭山 みかん

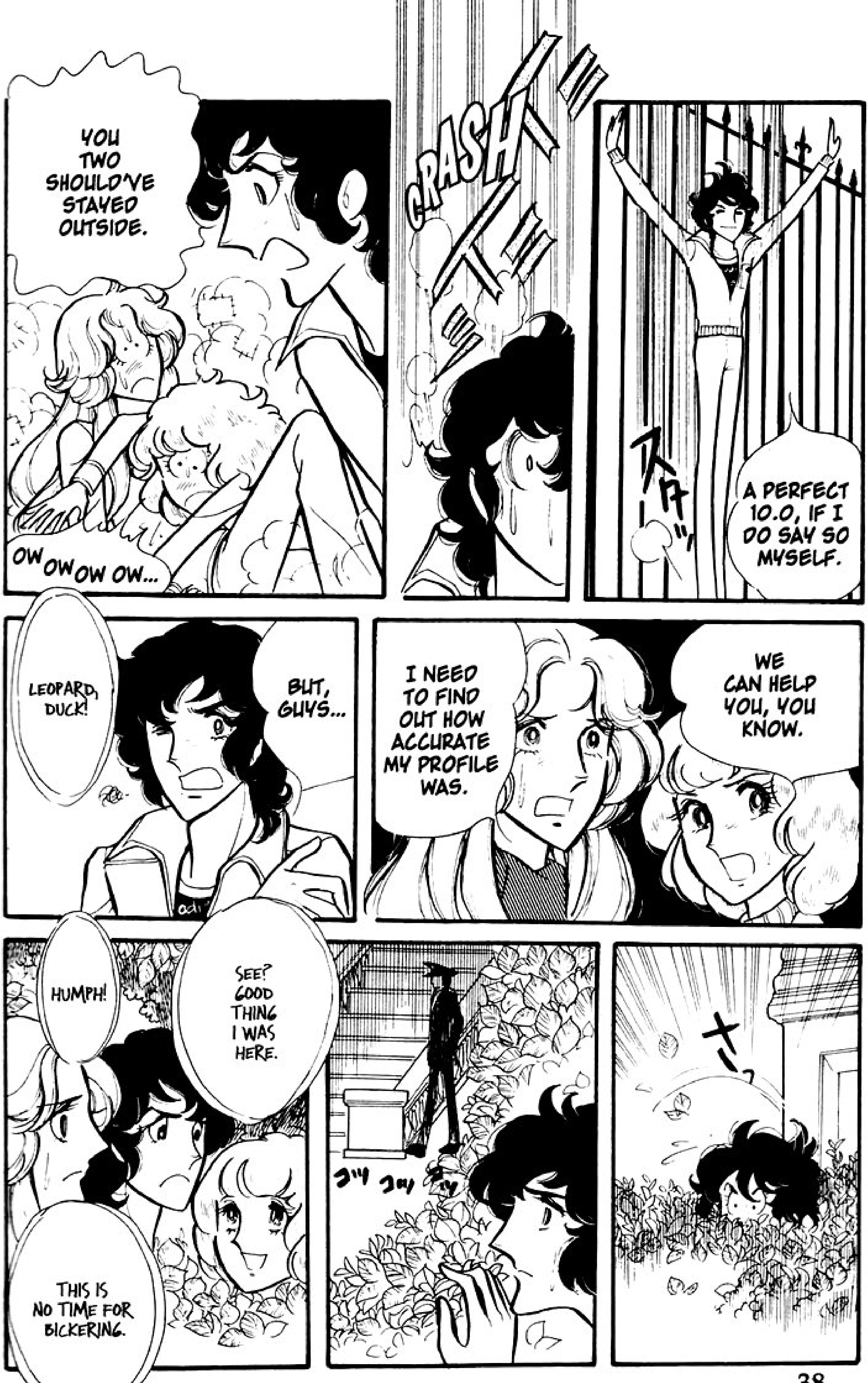

NOW WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S UP, SUGAR?
THAT SOUND...
I HEAR SOMETHING AT THE OTHER END.
LIKE WHAT?
SOMETHING THAT I'VE HEARD BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT.
IT'S... IT'S... IT'S... HEY!
CLICK
ガチャ。。
OPERATOR, WERE YOU ABLE TO TRACE THAT CALL?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
THE THIEF WAS BRIEF.
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT WAS THE PERPETRATOR?
SOMETHING HERE SMELLS A BIT FISHY! I'M TAKING YOU IN!
NOW, NOW. YOU JUST CONFIRMED IT WAS THE THIEF.
THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
I DID? ALL THIS EXCITEMENT IS GOING TO MY HEAD.
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD TO...
SHUT UP, OR ELSE HE WILL ARREST US.
I BID YOU FAREWELL... FOR NOW.
BUT YOU'RE STILL MY PRIME SUSPECTS.

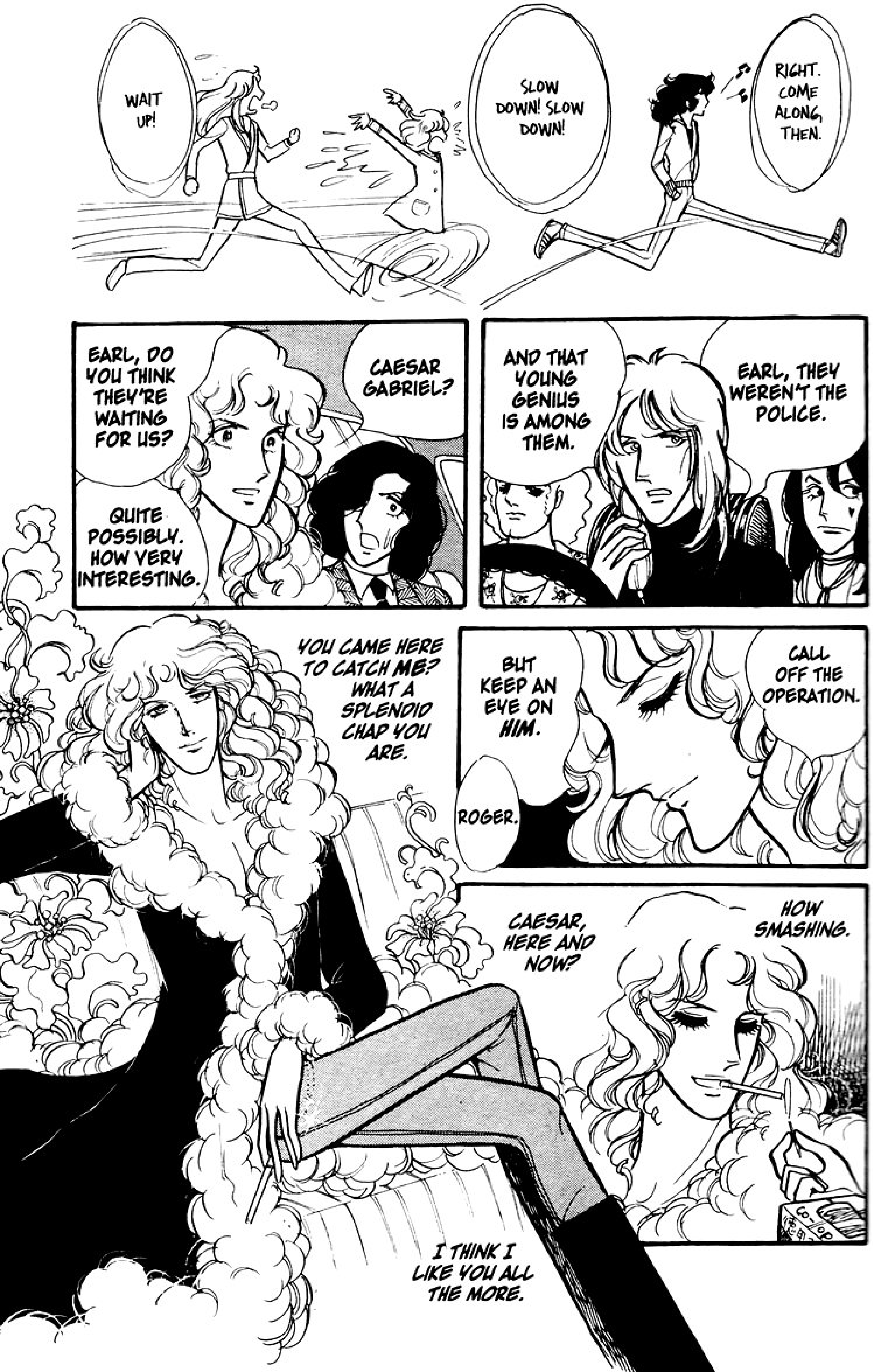

A STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS, I'D SAY.
TALK ABOUT DODGY POLICE WORK!
GYAH! HE'S *STILL* WATCHING US.
HE'S THE TYPE THAT WON'T GO AWAY.
RIGHT YOU ARE! I'M PERSISTENT.
I'M ALSO A MASTER OF DISGUISE.
CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING?
BOLLOCKS TO HIM. THINK OF HIM AS RUBBISH.
AS RUBBISH? ALRIGHTY THEN...
RUBBISH... RUBBISH...
AHA! HE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE RUBBISH.
COOL TRICK!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
AND HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
THE EROICA GANG IS GOING TO ROB THE TATE GALLERY NEXT.

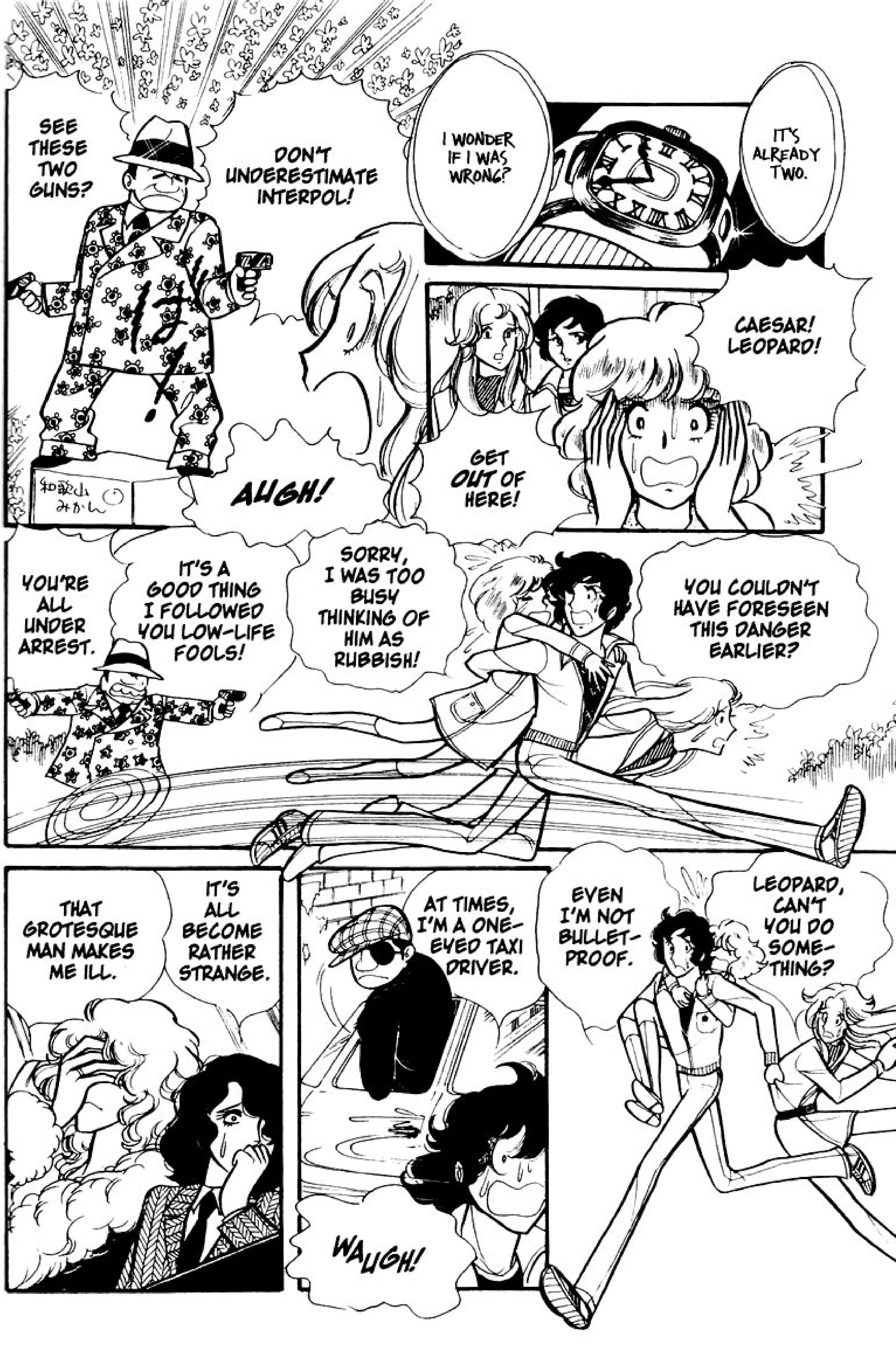

CAESAR, CAN YOU SEE INTO THE FUTURE, TOO?
NO, NO. THE PIECES WERE THERE, I JUST HAD TO PLACE THEM TOGETHER .
I LOOKED AT WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM THE MUSEUMS IN LONDON, PARIS, AND NEW YORK, AND CAME UP WITH A CRIMINAL PROFILE.
NEXT, THEY FANCY THE GABRIEL ROSETTI IN THE TATE GALLERY.
ELP
AERO SMI
BGM:L2
NICE
THEIR TASTES ARE CLEARLY DEFINED, SO IT WAS ELEMENTARY.
THEY'RE LED BY AN INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN, PERHAPS 22 OR 23 YEARS OLD.
USING THE NAME "EROICA" INDICATES NARCISSISM, SO HE'S PROBABLY VERY HANDSOME.
HE SOUNDS GORGEOUS. I WANT TO MEET HIM.
YOU FIGURED ALL THAT OUT? NOT BAD, SHERLOCK.
PART INSTINCT. PART RESEARCH. AND PART WISHFUL THINKING.
A MAN THIS SCRUPULOUS MIGHT BE INTERESTING.
HELL, I MIGHT WANT TO MEET HIM.
AND IF WE CATCH HIM, WE'LL BE COMPLETELY CLEARED.
AND THAT MR. RUBBISH WILL GO AWAY, TOO.

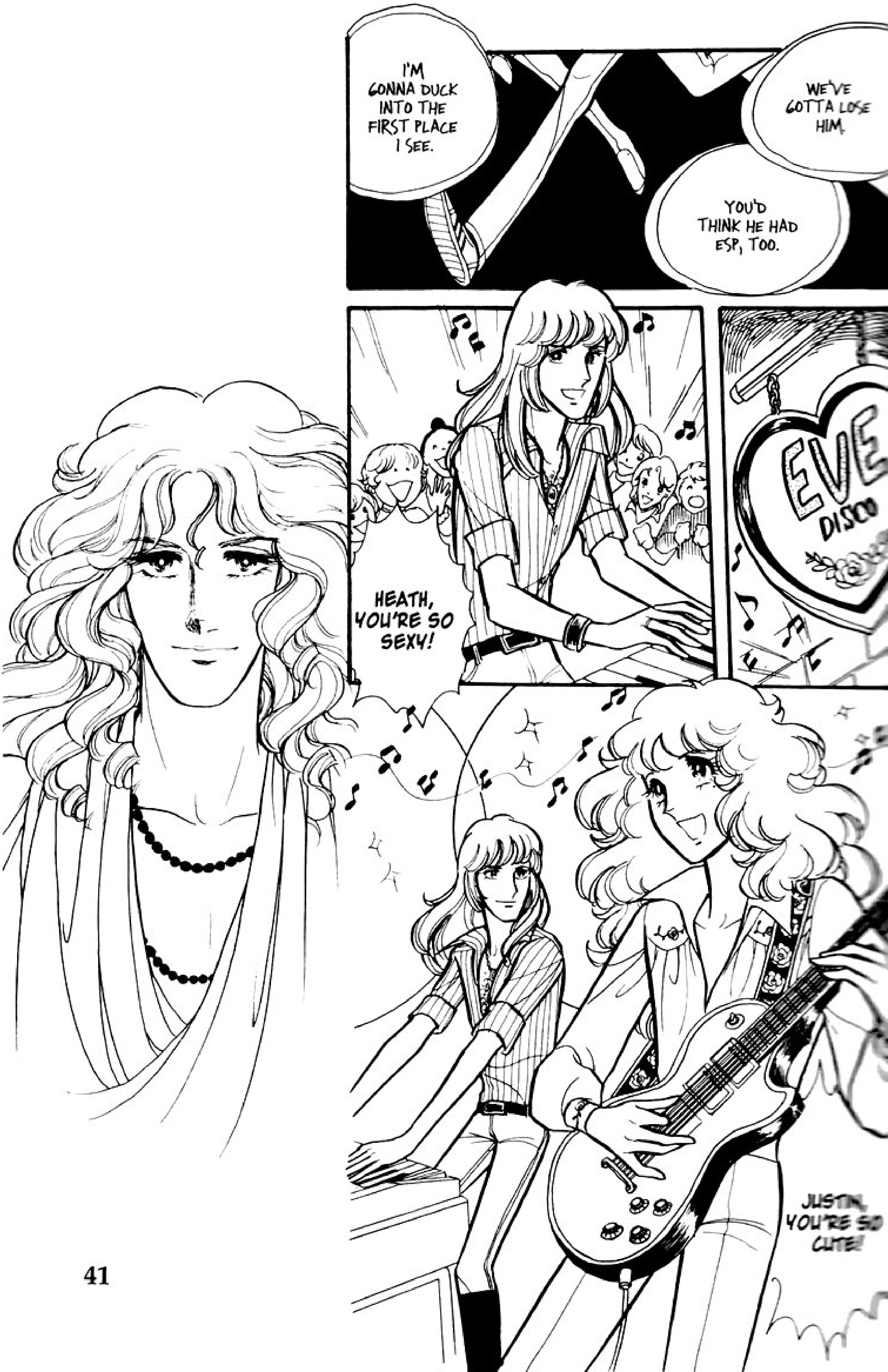

SO ARE YOU OUT OR IN?
I'M IN.
THIS IS SO EXCITING.
WE KNOW WHERE, SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT WHEN.
EVEN I CAN'T DO THAT.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE AFTER ALL.
THAT'S IT! WE'LL WORK BACKWARDS.
SUGAR, CAN YOU FORESEE A DAY WHEN WE'RE IN DANGER?
UMMMMM.
LET'S SEE...
I GOT IT. TEN DAYS FROM NOW. LATE AT NIGHT.
SOMETHING IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN TO US.
MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO CAESAR.
TO ME?
WHY?

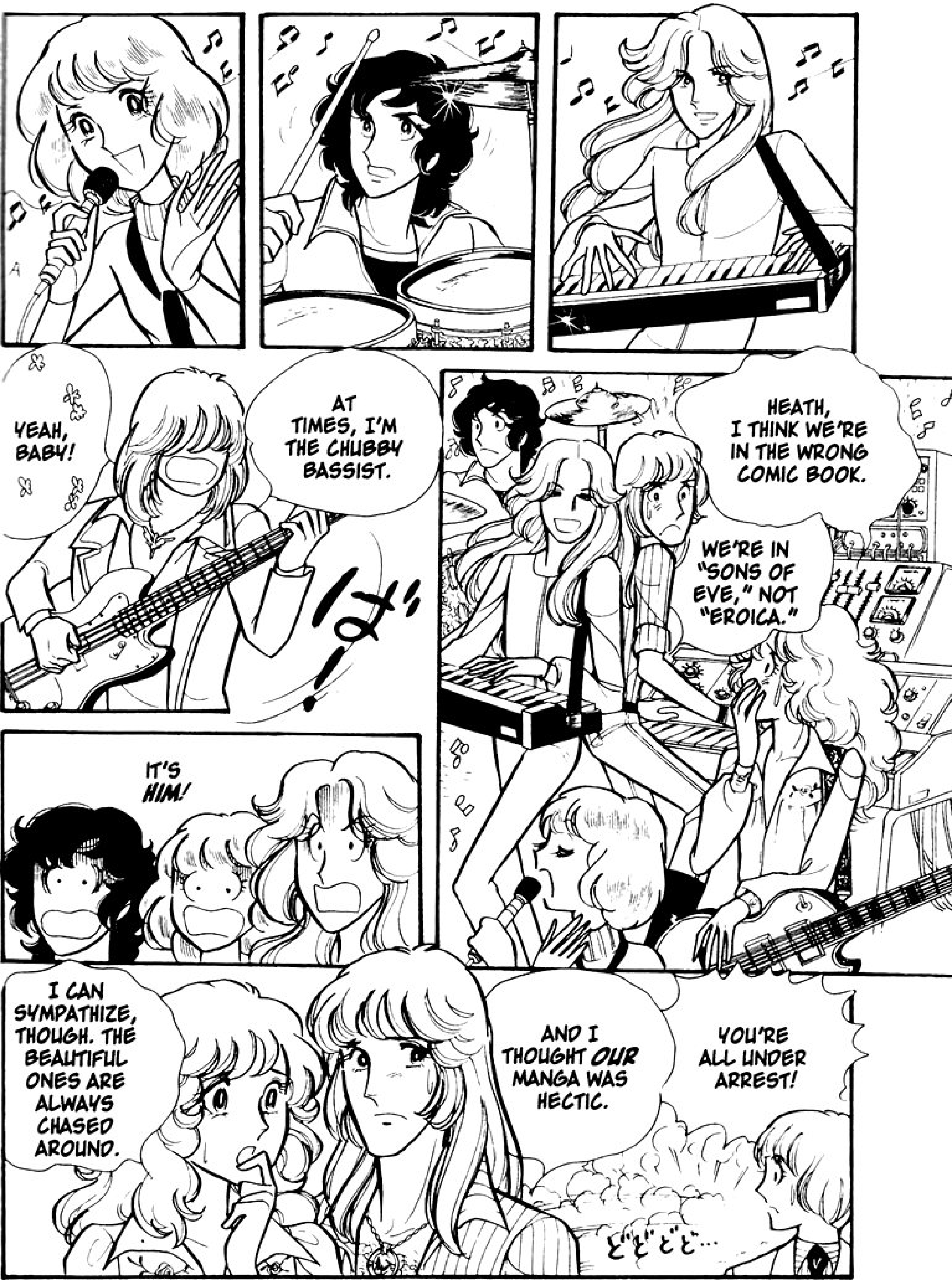

TATE GALLERY
EARL, YOU NEEDN'T BE HERE IN PERSON.
OCCASIONALLY, I LIKE TO FEEL THE EXCITEMENT.
EARL, THIS IS THE SCOUT.
WHAT IS IT, BECK?
THERE ARE SUSPICIOUS BLOKES HERE.
THEY COULD BE COPPERS, STAKIN' OUT THE PLACE.
JUST BE COOL.
ヒョイ
HE MAKES IT LOOK SO EASY.

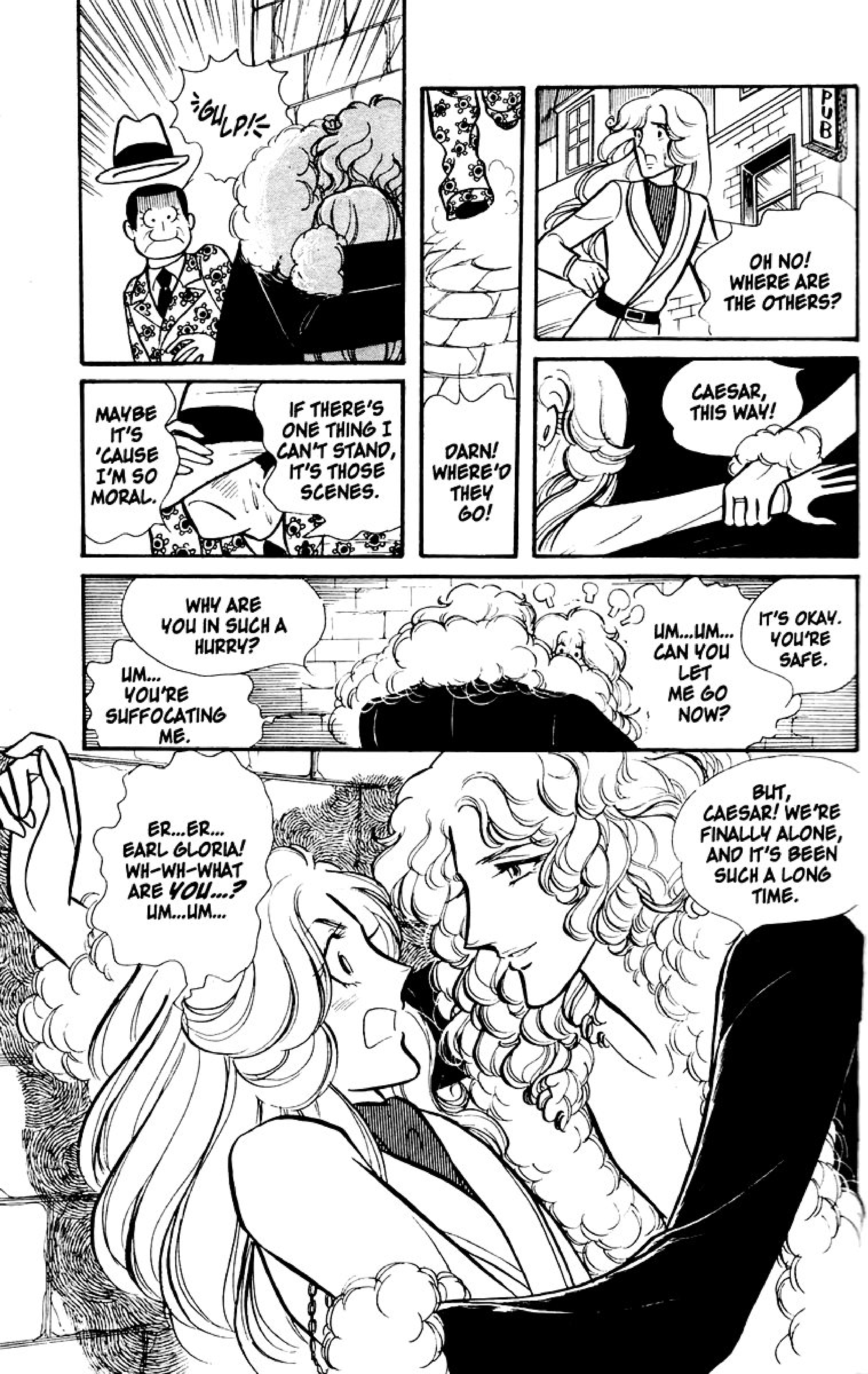

A PERFECT 10.0, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
スタッ
CRASH
YOU TWO SHOULD'VE STAYED OUTSIDE.
OW OW OW OW...
WE CAN HELP YOU, YOU KNOW.
I NEED TO FIND OUT HOW ACCURATE MY PROFILE WAS.
BUT, GUYS...
LEOPARD, DUCK!
さっ
コツ コツ コツ
SEE? GOOD THING I WAS HERE.
HUMPH!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR BICKERING.

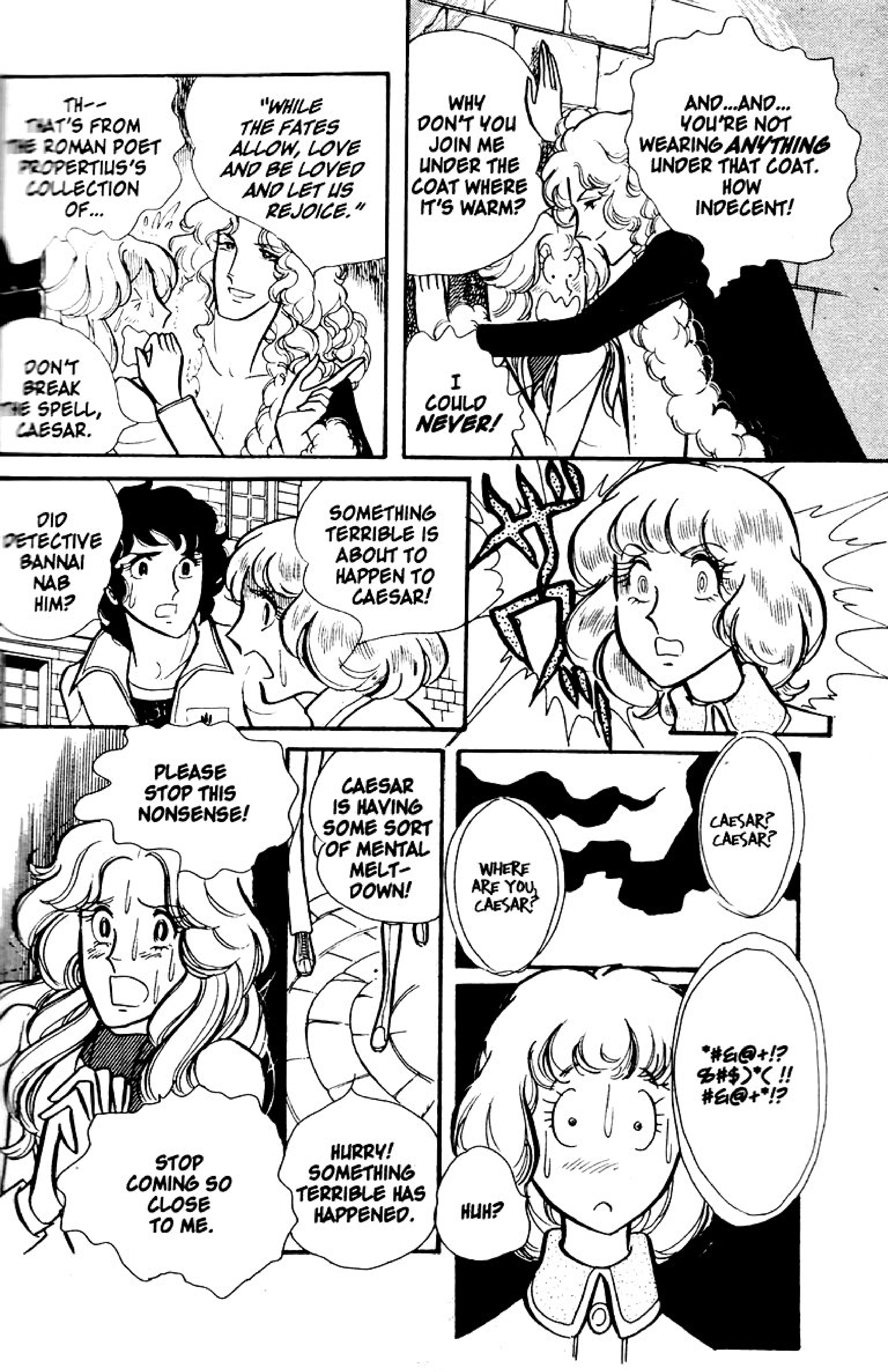

RIGHT. COME ALONG, THEN.
SLOW DOWN! SLOW DOWN!
WAIT UP!
EARL, THEY WEREN'T THE POLICE.
AND THAT YOUNG GENIUS IS AMONG THEM.
CAESAR GABRIEL?
EARL, DO YOU THINK THEY'RE WAITING FOR US?
QUITE POSSIBLY. HOW VERY INTERESTING.
CALL OFF THE OPERATION.
BUT KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
ROGER.
YOU CAME HERE TO CATCH ME? WHAT A SPLENDID CHAP YOU ARE.
HOW SMASHING.
CAESAR, HERE AND NOW?
I THINK I LIKE YOU ALL THE MORE.

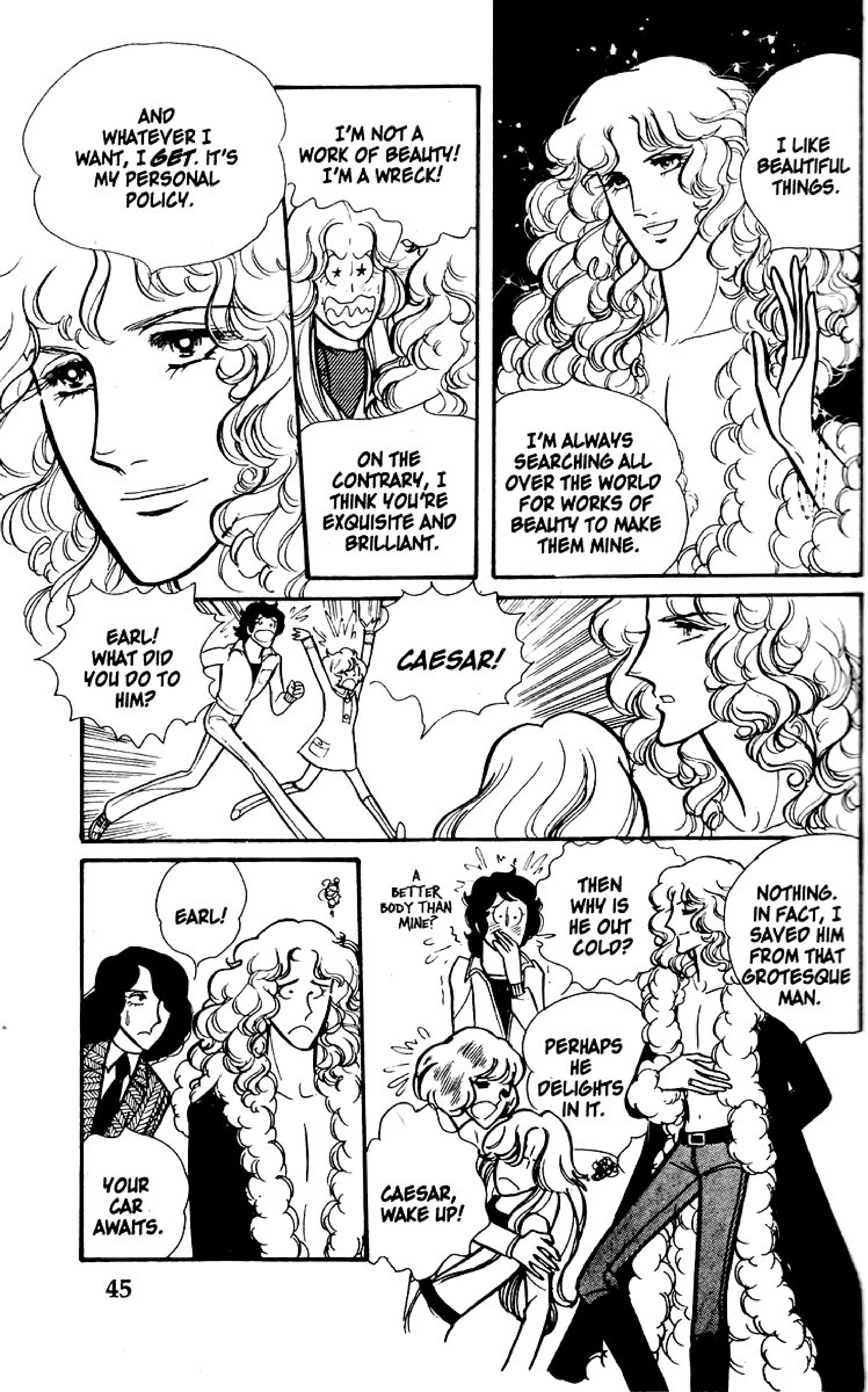

IT'S ALREADY TWO.
I WONDER IF I WAS WRONG?
CAESAR! LEOPARD!
GET OUT OF HERE!
AUGH!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE INTERPOL!
SEE THESE TWO GUNS?
は!
和歌山 みかん
YOU COULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN THIS DANGER EARLIER?
SORRY, I WAS TOO BUSY THINKING OF HIM AS RUBBISH!
IT'S A GOOD THING I FOLLOWED YOU LOW-LIFE FOOLS!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.
LEOPARD, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?
EVEN I'M NOT BULLETPROOF.
AT TIMES, I'M A ONE-EYED TAXI DRIVER.
WAUGH!
IT'S ALL BECOME RATHER STRANGE.
THAT GROTESQUE MAN MAKES ME ILL.

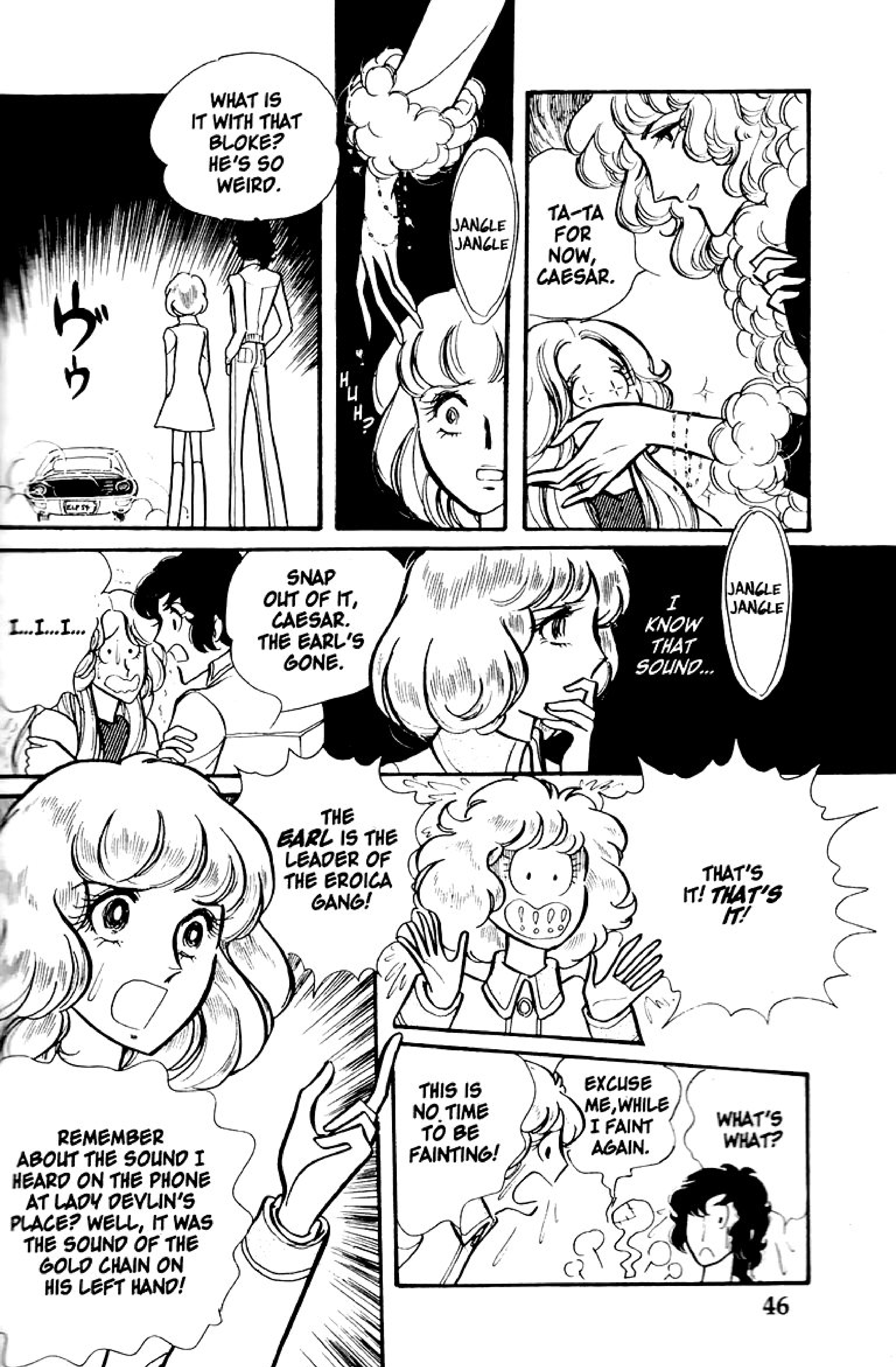

I'M GONNA DUCK INTO THE FIRST PLACE I SEE.
WE'VE GOTTA LOSE HIM.
YOU'D THINK HE HAD ESP, TOO.
EVE
DISCO
HEATH, YOU'RE SO SEXY!
JUSTIN, YOU'RE SO CUTE!

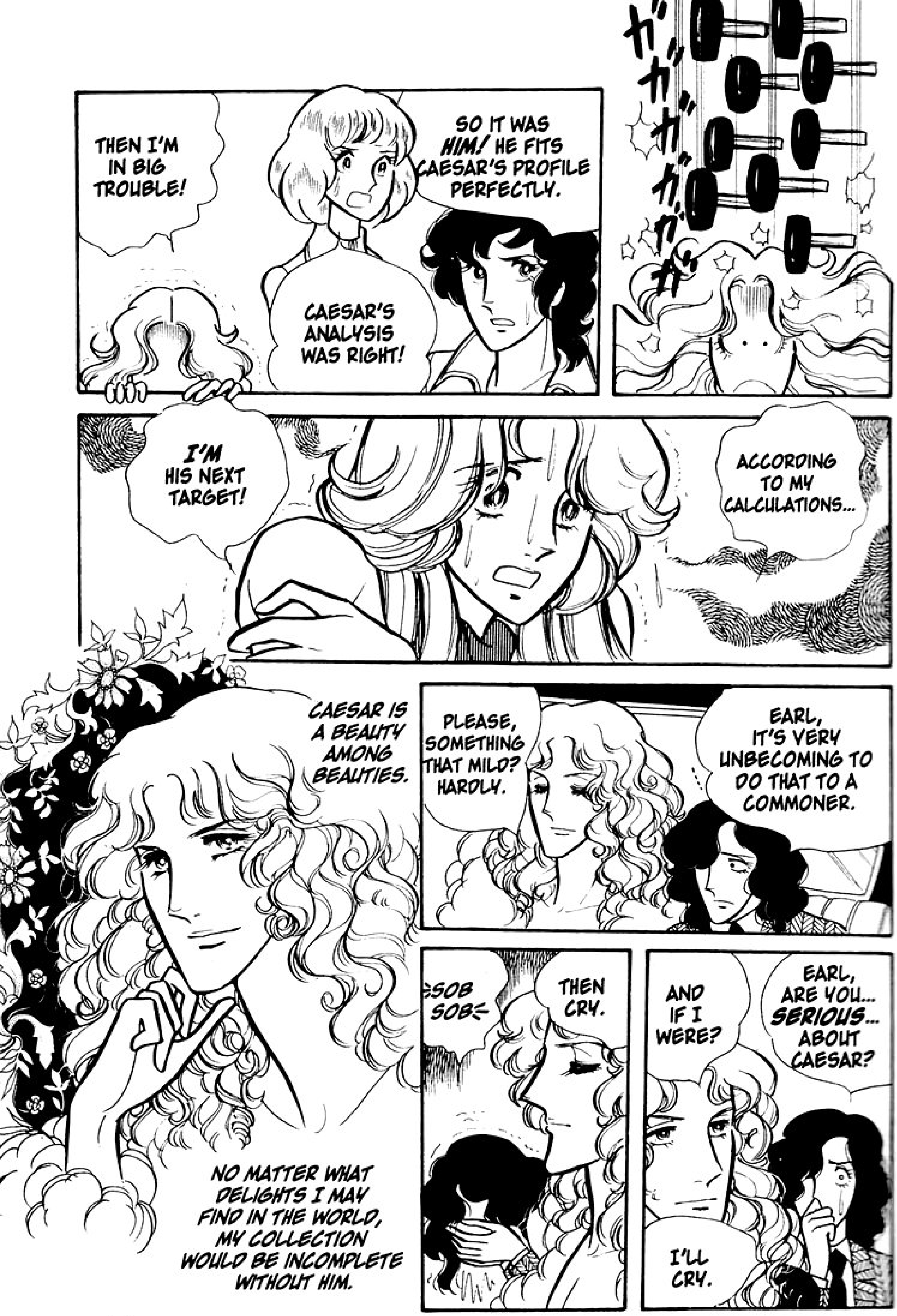

YEAH, BABY!
AT TIMES, I'M THE CHUBBY BASSIST.
ば!
IT'S *HIM!*
HEATH, I THINK WE'RE IN THE WRONG COMIC BOOK.
WE'RE IN "SONS OF EVE," NOT "EROICA."
I CAN SYMPATHIZE, THOUGH. THE BEAUTIFUL ONES ARE ALWAYS CHASED AROUND.
AND I THOUGHT *OUR* MANGA WAS HECTIC.
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
どどどど…

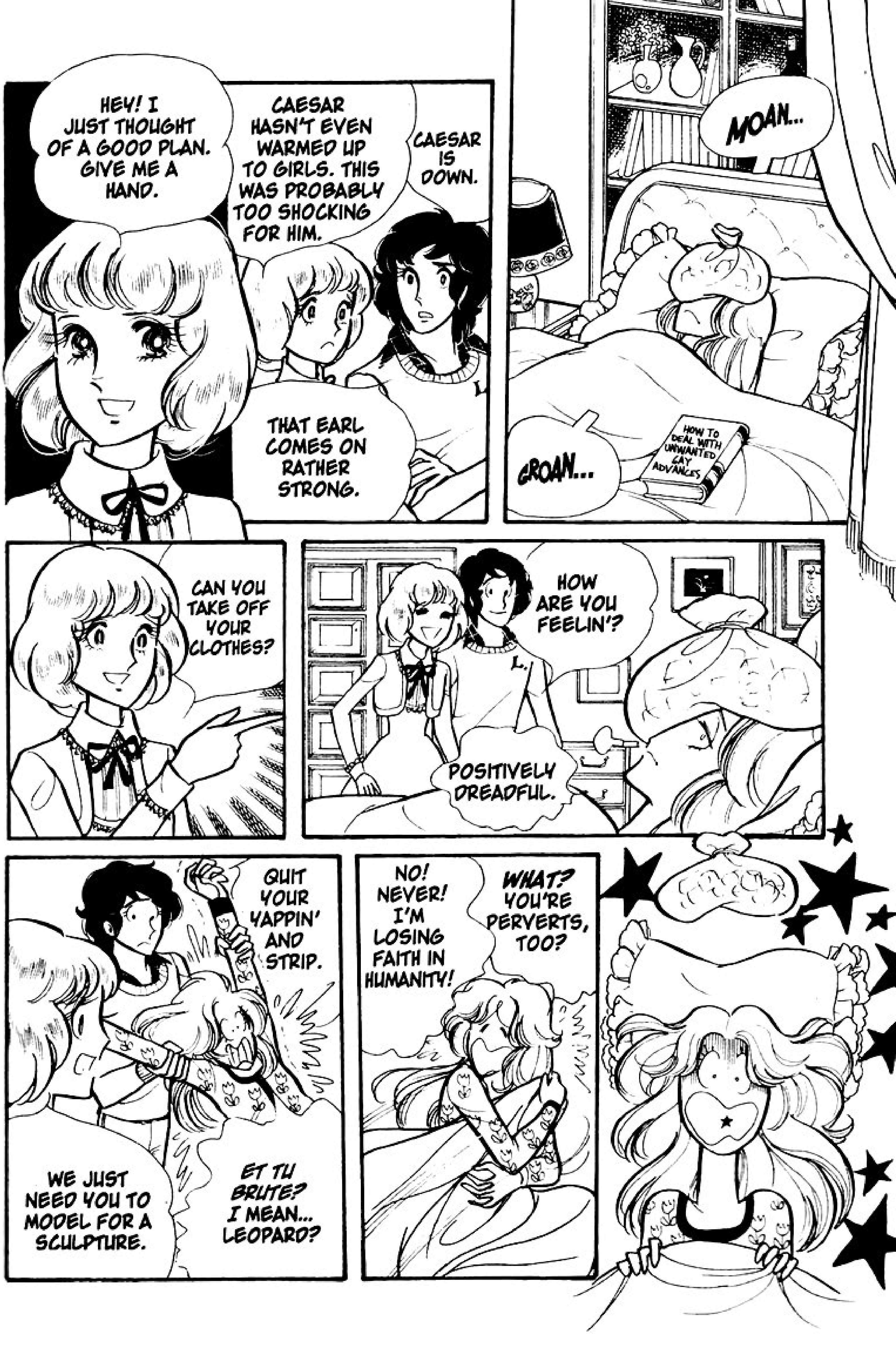

OH NO! WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
CAESAR, THIS WAY!
DARN! WHERE'D THEY GO!
GULP!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND, IT'S THOSE SCENES.
MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE I'M SO MORAL.
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SAFE.
UM...UM... CAN YOU LET ME GO NOW?
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
UM... YOU'RE SUFFOCATING ME.
BUT, CAESAR! WE'RE FINALLY ALONE, AND IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME.
ER...ER... EARL GLORIA! WH-WH-WHAT ARE *YOU*...? UM...UM...

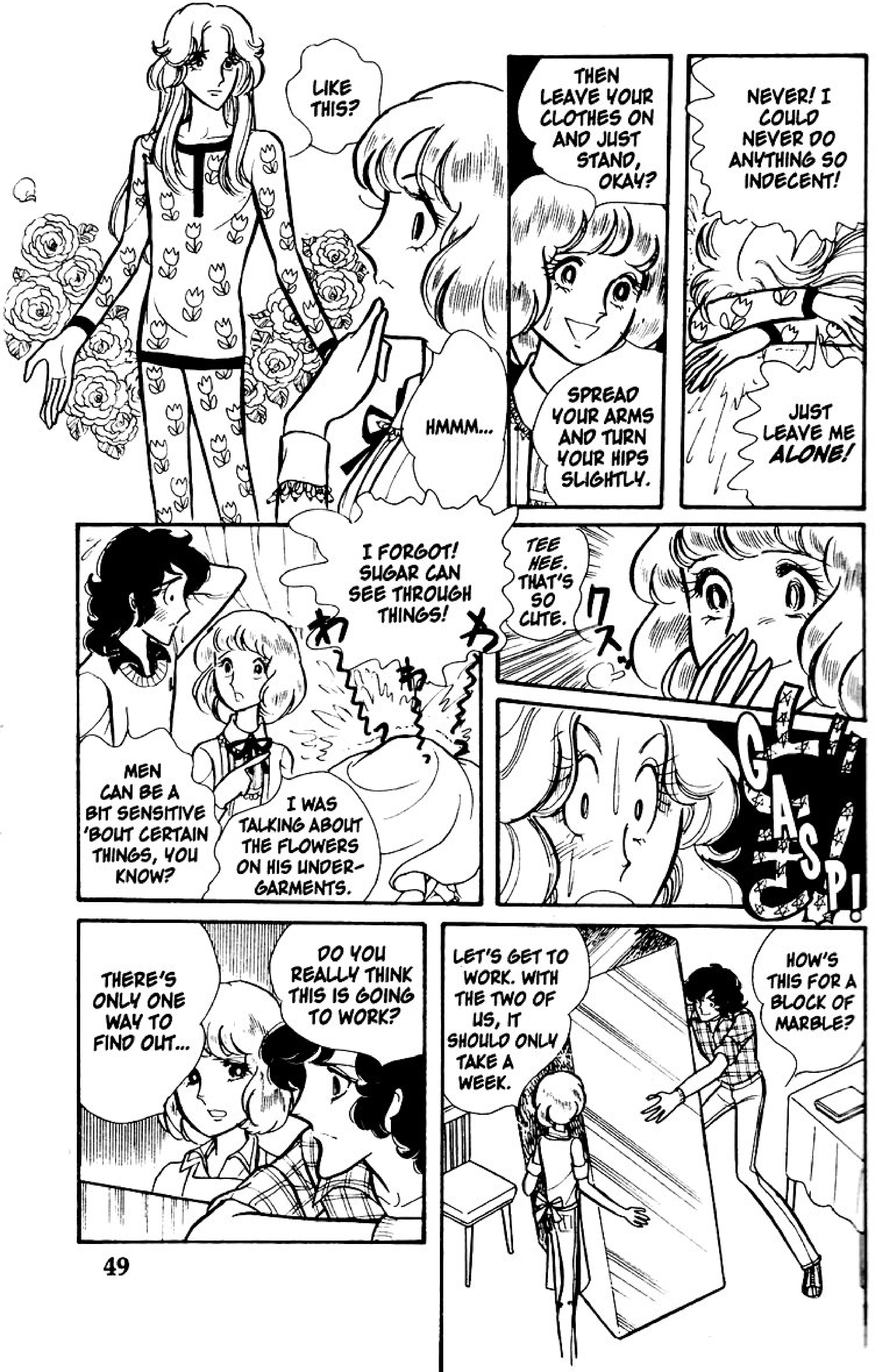

"WHILE THE FATES ALLOW, LOVE AND BE LOVED AND LET US REJOICE."
TH-- THAT'S FROM THE ROMAN POET PROPERTIUS'S COLLECTION OF...
DON'T BREAK THE SPELL, CAESAR.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME UNDER THE COAT WHERE IT'S WARM?
AND...AND... YOU'RE NOT WEARING *ANYTHING* UNDER THAT COAT. HOW INDECENT!
I COULD *NEVER!*
DID DETECTIVE BANNAI NAB HIM?
SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO CAESAR!
PLEASE STOP THIS NONSENSE!
STOP COMING SO CLOSE TO ME.
CAESAR IS HAVING SOME SORT OF MENTAL MELT-DOWN!
HURRY! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.
CAESAR? CAESAR?
WHERE ARE YOU, CAESAR?
#&@+!? $#$)(!! #&@+*!?
HUH?

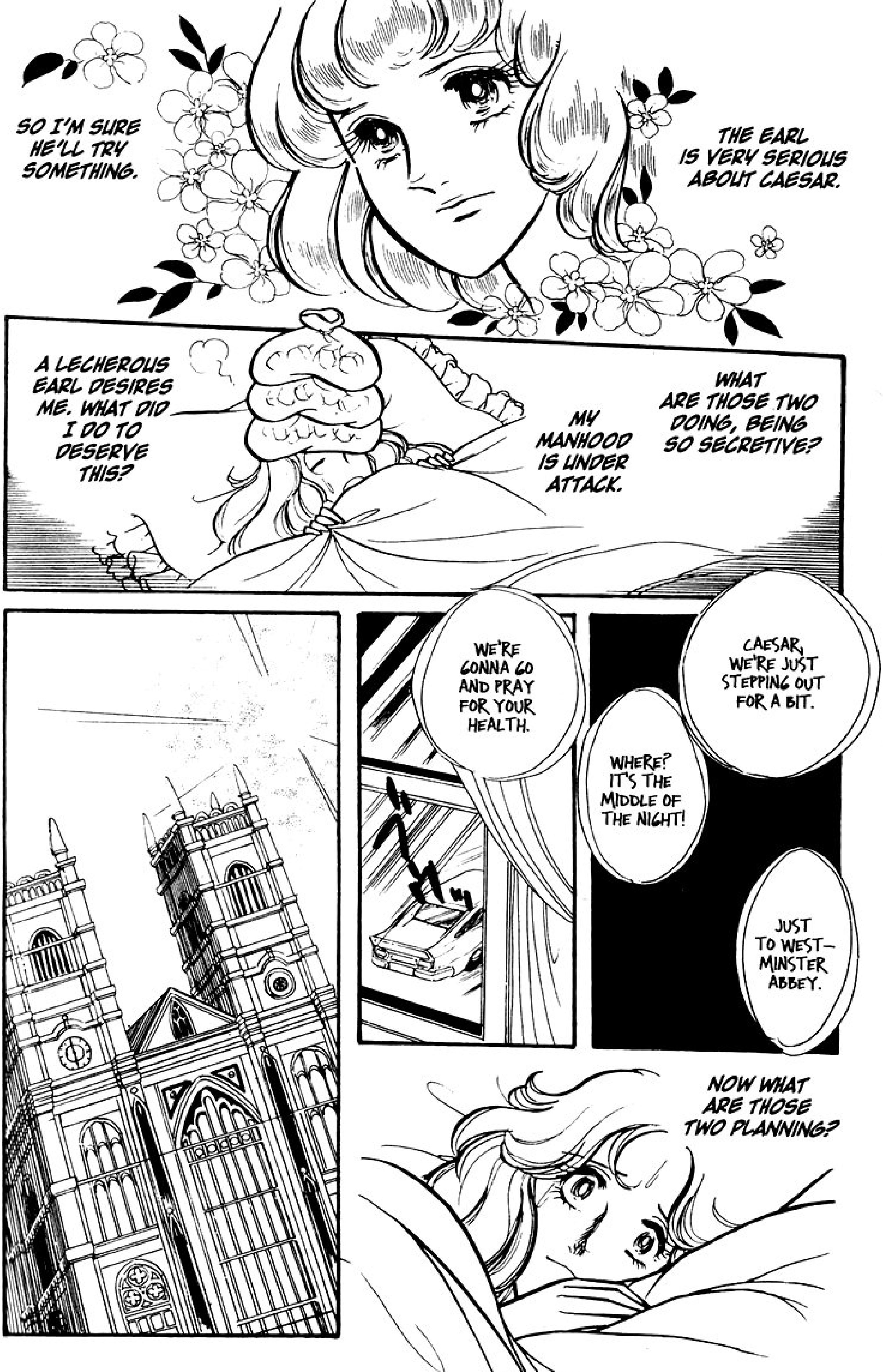

I LIKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
I'M ALWAYS SEARCHING ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR WORKS OF BEAUTY TO MAKE THEM MINE.
I'M NOT A WORK OF BEAUTY! I'M A WRECK!
ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK YOU'RE EXQUISITE AND BRILLIANT.
AND WHATEVER I WANT, I *GET*. IT'S MY PERSONAL POLICY.
CAESAR!
EARL! WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
NOTHING. IN FACT, I SAVED HIM FROM THAT GROTESQUE MAN.
THEN WHY IS HE OUT COLD?
A BETTER BODY THAN MINE?
PERHAPS HE DELIGHTS IN IT.
CAESAR, WAKE UP!
EARL!
YOUR CAR AWAITS.

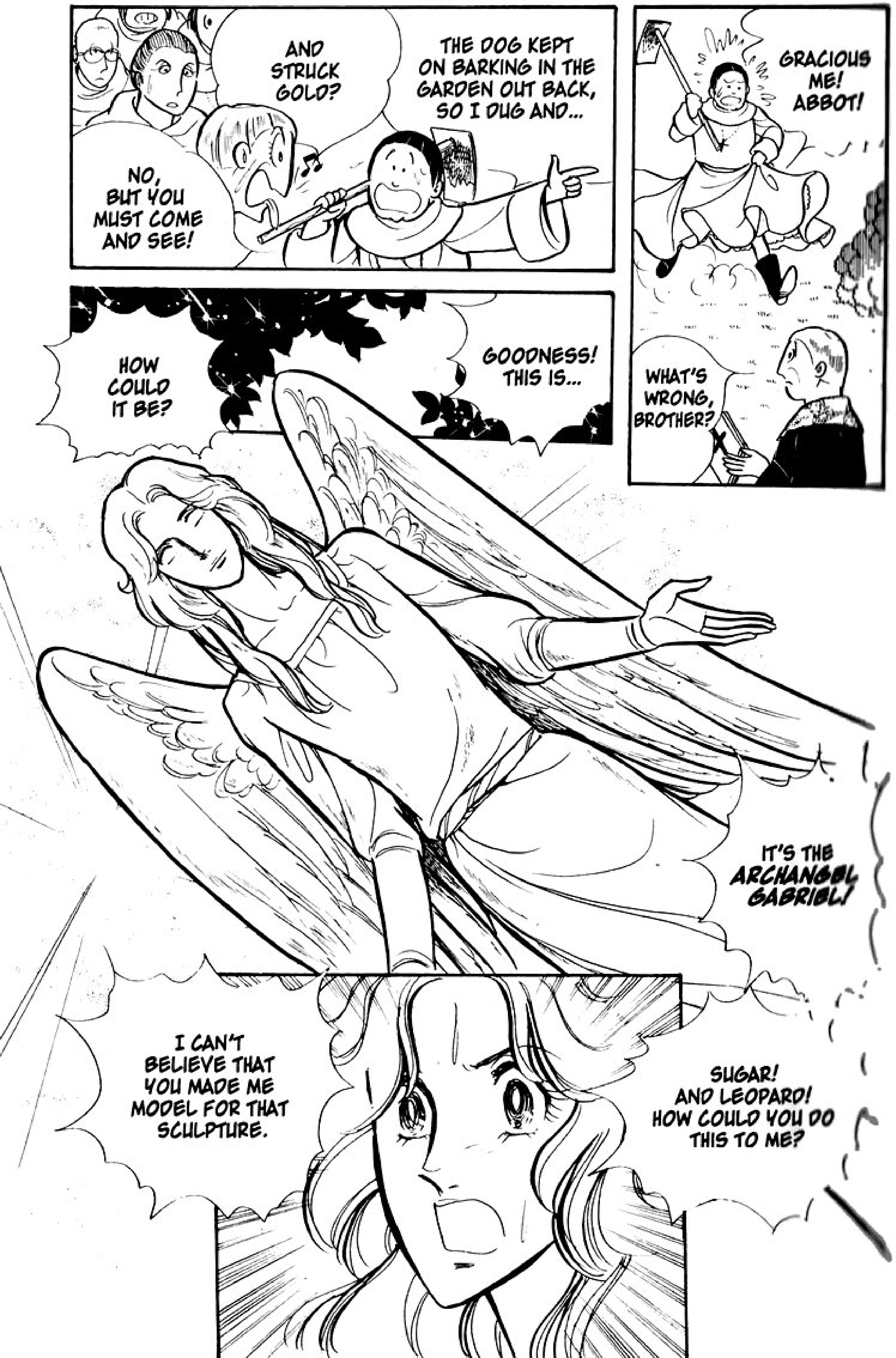

TA-TA FOR NOW, CAESAR.
JANGLE JANGLE
HUH?
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT BLOKE? HE'S SO WEIRD.
ヴゥ
JANGLE JANGLE
I KNOW THAT SOUND...
SNAP OUT OF IT, CAESAR. THE EARL'S GONE.
I...I...I...
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!
THE EARL IS THE LEADER OF THE EROICA GANG!
REMEMBER ABOUT THE SOUND I HEARD ON THE PHONE AT LADY DEVLIN'S PLACE? WELL, IT WAS THE SOUND OF THE GOLD CHAIN ON HIS LEFT HAND!
WHAT'S WHAT?
EXCUSE ME, WHILE I FAINT AGAIN.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FAINTING!

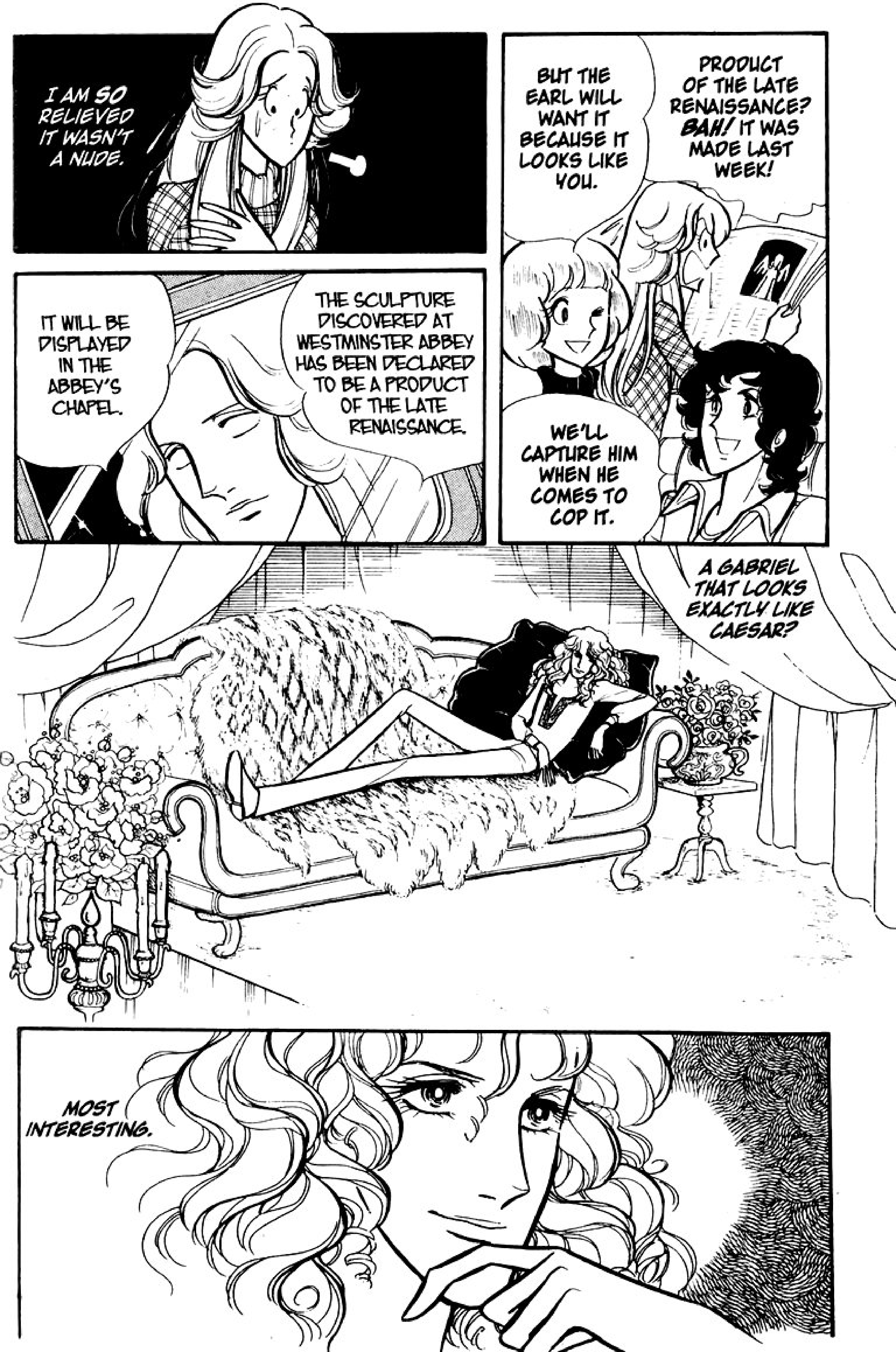

ガッガッガッガッガッ
SO IT WAS *HIM!* HE FITS CAESAR'S PROFILE PERFECTLY.
CAESAR'S ANALYSIS WAS RIGHT!
THEN I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS...
I'M HIS NEXT TARGET!
EARL, IT'S VERY UNBECOMING TO DO THAT TO A COMMONER.
PLEASE, SOMETHING THAT MILD? HARDLY.
EARL, ARE YOU... *SERIOUS*... ABOUT CAESAR?
AND IF I WERE?
I'LL CRY.
THEN CRY.
SOB SOB
CAESAR IS A BEAUTY AMONG BEAUTIES.
NO MATTER WHAT DELIGHTS I MAY FIND IN THE WORLD, MY COLLECTION WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT HIM.

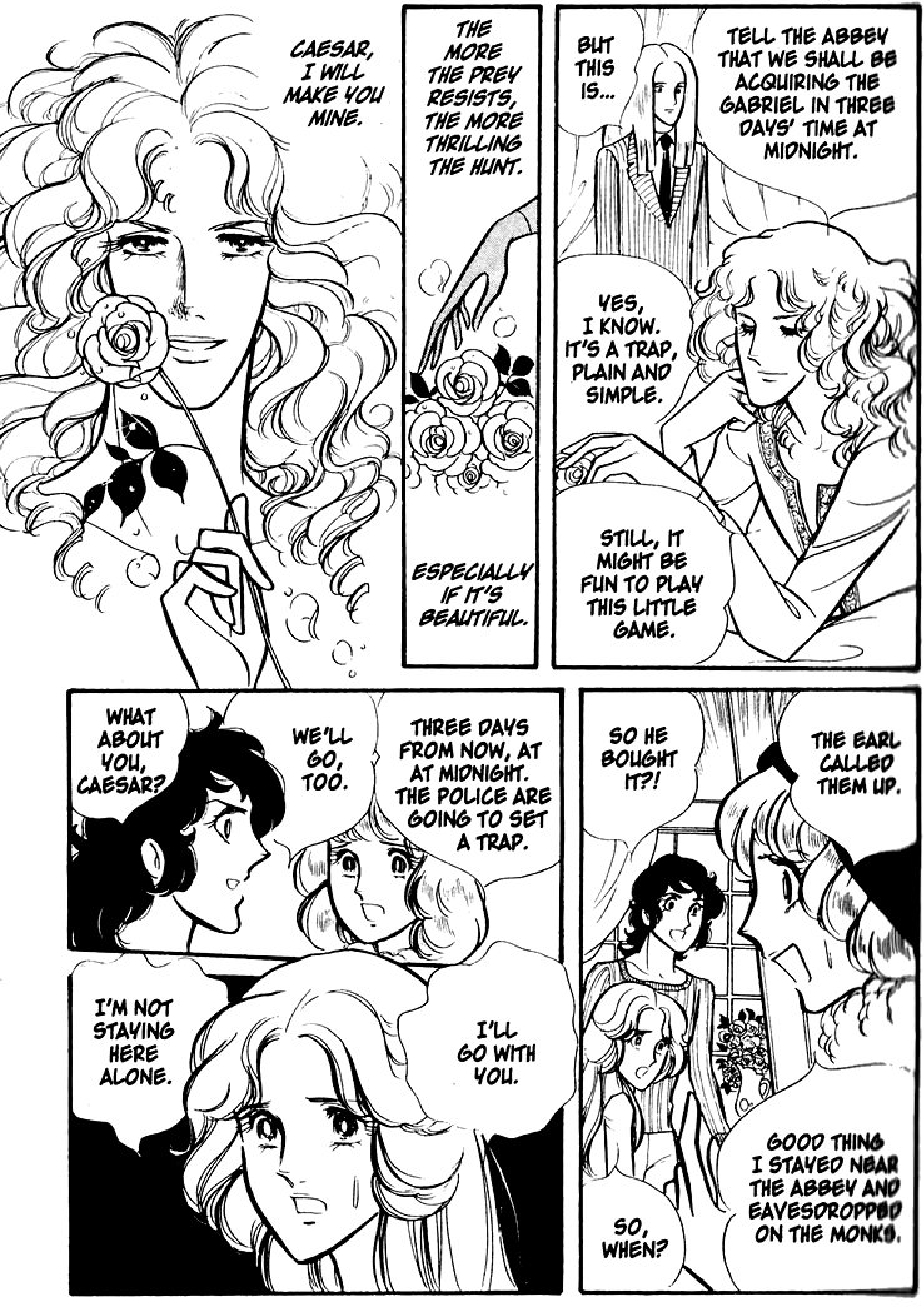

MOAN...
GROAN...
HOW TO DEAL WITH UNWANTED GAY ADVANCES
CAESAR IS DOWN.
CAESAR HASN'T EVEN WARMED UP TO GIRLS. THIS WAS PROBABLY TOO SHOCKING FOR HIM.
THAT EARL COMES ON RATHER STRONG.
HEY! I JUST THOUGHT OF A GOOD PLAN. GIVE ME A HAND.
HOW ARE YOU FEELIN'?
POSITIVELY DREADFUL.
CAN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES?
WHAT? YOU'RE PERVERTS, TOO?
NO! NEVER! I'M LOSING FAITH IN HUMANITY!
QUIT YOUR YAPPIN' AND STRIP.
ET TU BRUTE? I MEAN... LEOPARD?
WE JUST NEED YOU TO MODEL FOR A SCULPTURE.

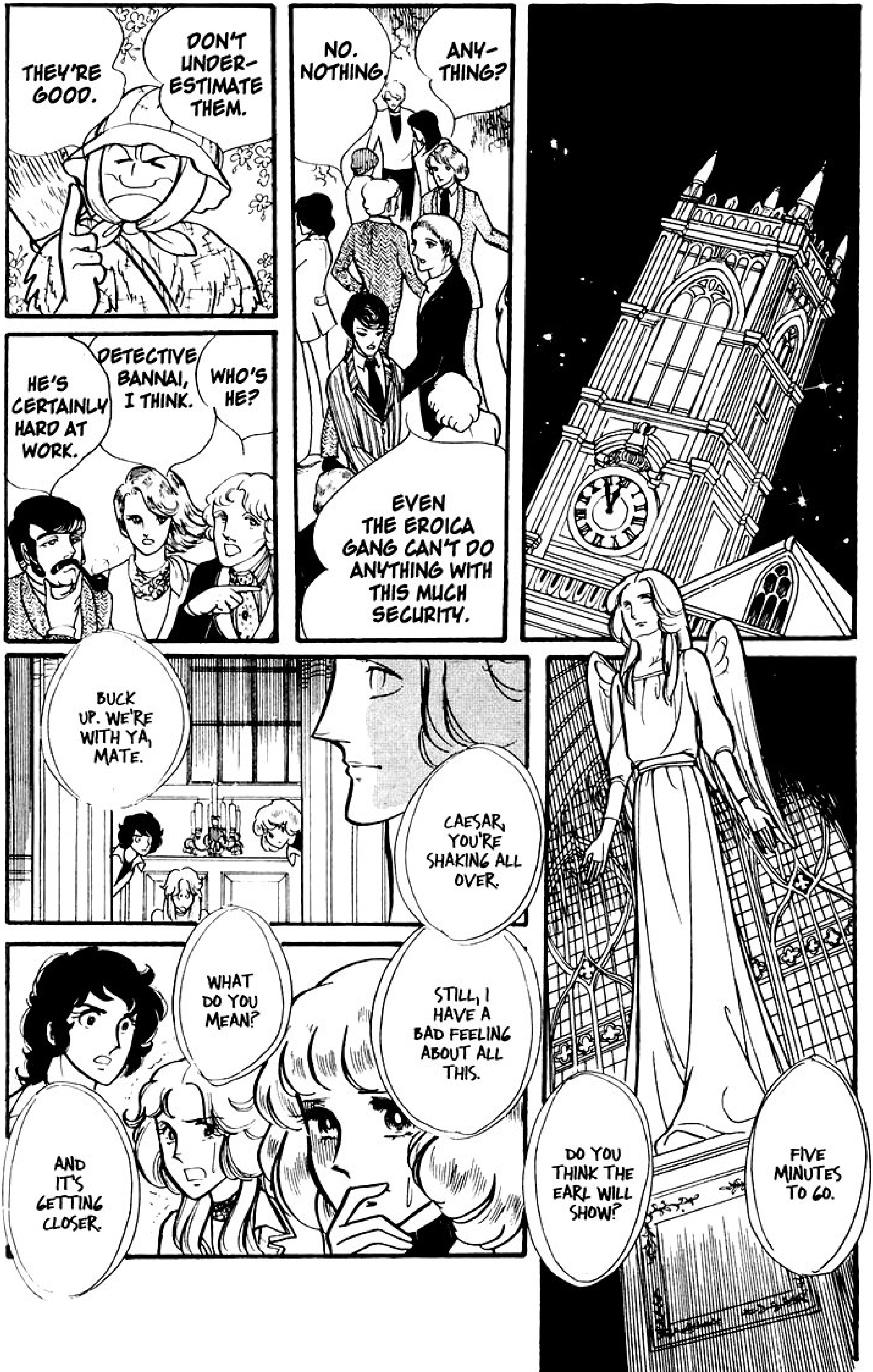

NEVER! I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING SO INDECENT!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
THEN LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES ON AND JUST STAND, OKAY?
SPREAD YOUR ARMS AND TURN YOUR HIPS SLIGHTLY.
LIKE THIS?
HMMM...
TEE HEE. THAT'S SO CUTE.
クス
GASP!
I FORGOT! SUGAR CAN SEE THROUGH THINGS!
わ
わ
わ
MEN CAN BE A BIT SENSITIVE 'BOUT CERTAIN THINGS, YOU KNOW?
I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE FLOWERS ON HIS UNDER-GARMENTS.
HOW'S THIS FOR A BLOCK OF MARBLE?
LET'S GET TO WORK. WITH THE TWO OF US, IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE A WEEK.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

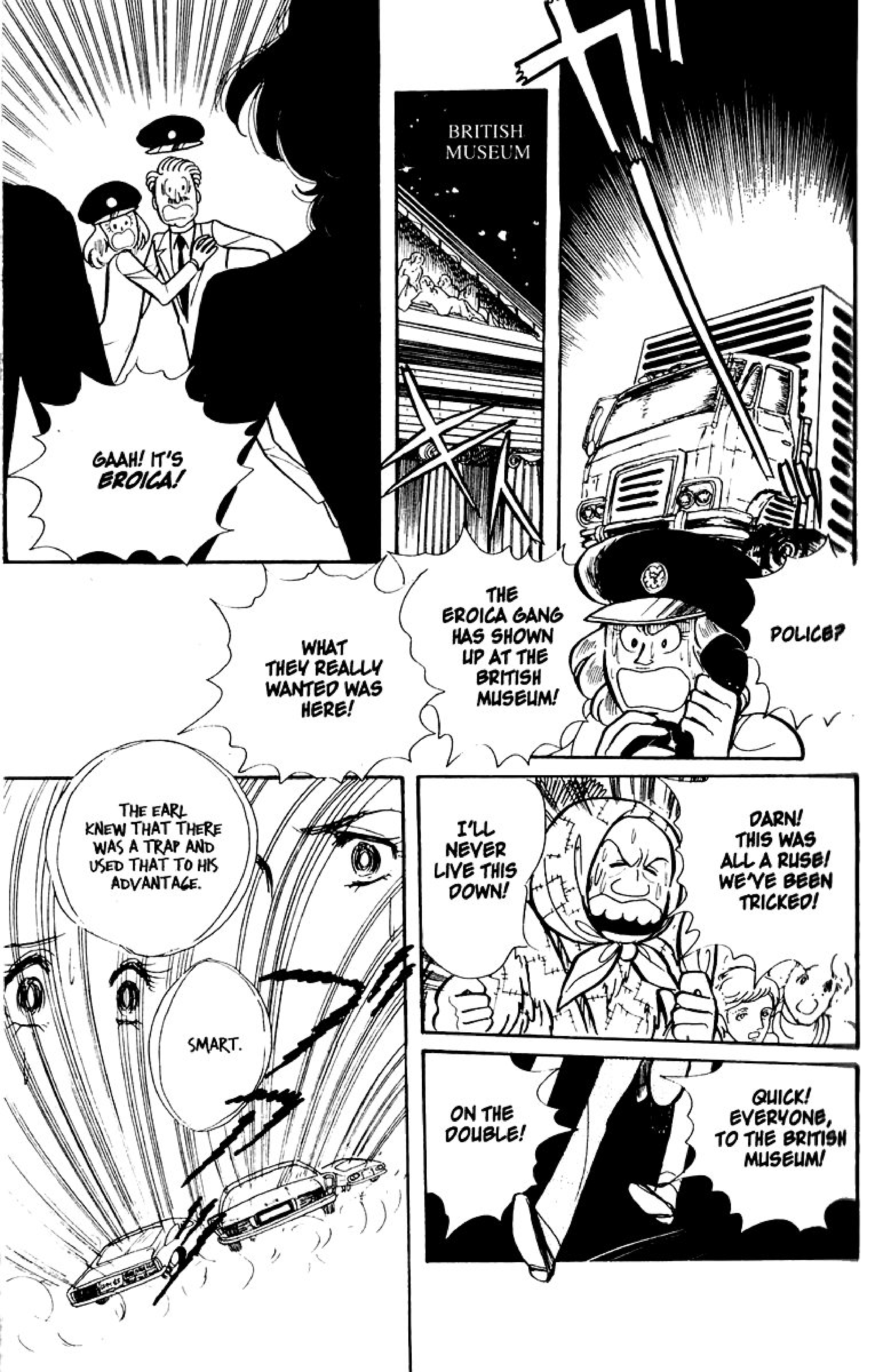

THE EARL IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT CAESAR.
SO I'M SURE HE'LL TRY SOMETHING.
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DOING, BEING SO SECRETIVE?
MY MANHOOD IS UNDER ATTACK.
A LECHEROUS EARL DESIRES ME. WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS?
CAESAR, WE'RE JUST STEPPING OUT FOR A BIT.
WHERE? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
JUST TO WEST-MINSTER ABBEY.
WE'RE GONNA GO AND PRAY FOR YOUR HEALTH.
NOW WHAT ARE THOSE TWO PLANNING?

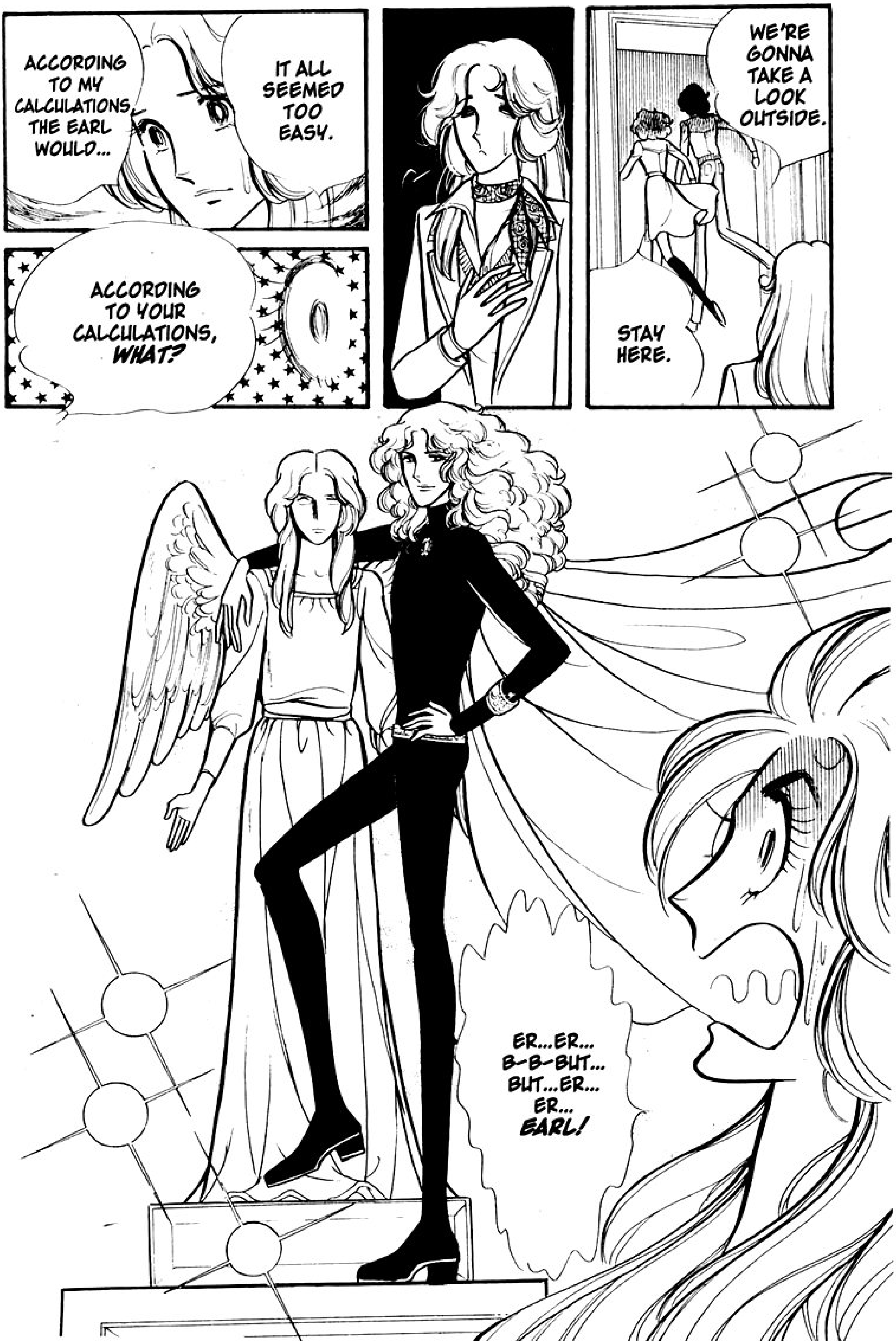

GRACIOUS ME! ABBOT!
WHAT'S WRONG, BROTHER?
THE DOG KEPT ON BARKING IN THE GARDEN OUT BACK, SO I DUG AND...
AND STRUCK GOLD?
NO, BUT YOU MUST COME AND SEE!
GOODNESS! THIS IS...
HOW COULD IT BE?
IT'S THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL!
SUGAR! AND LEOPARD! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU MADE ME MODEL FOR THAT SCULPTURE.

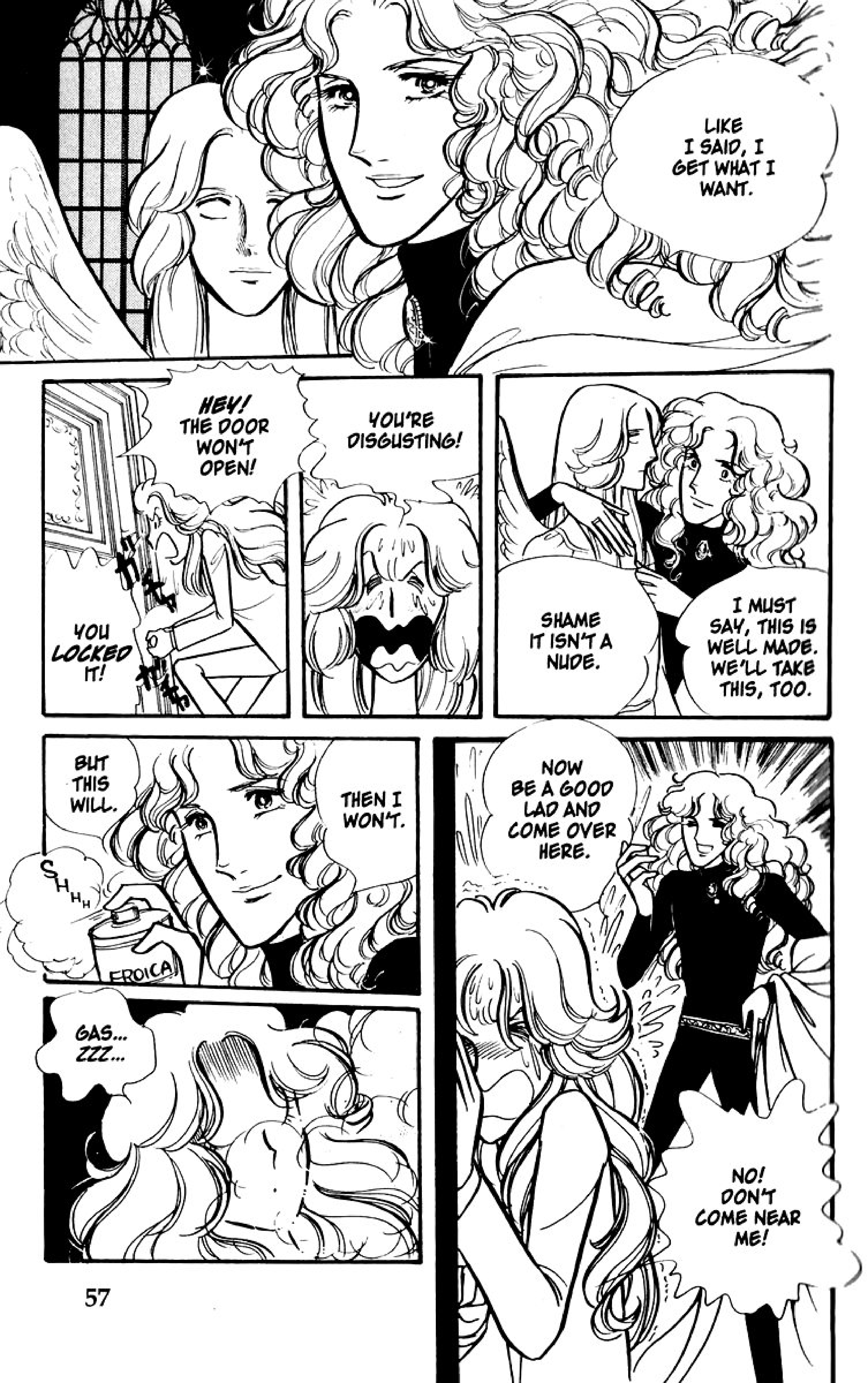

I AM SO RELIEVED IT WASN'T A NUDE.
THE SCULPTURE DISCOVERED AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY HAS BEEN DECLARED TO BE A PRODUCT OF THE LATE RENAISSANCE.
IT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE ABBEY'S CHAPEL.
PRODUCT OF THE LATE RENAISSANCE? BAH! IT WAS MADE LAST WEEK!
BUT THE EARL WILL WANT IT BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU.
WE'LL CAPTURE HIM WHEN HE COMES TO COP IT.
A GABRIEL THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE CAESAR?
MOST INTERESTING.

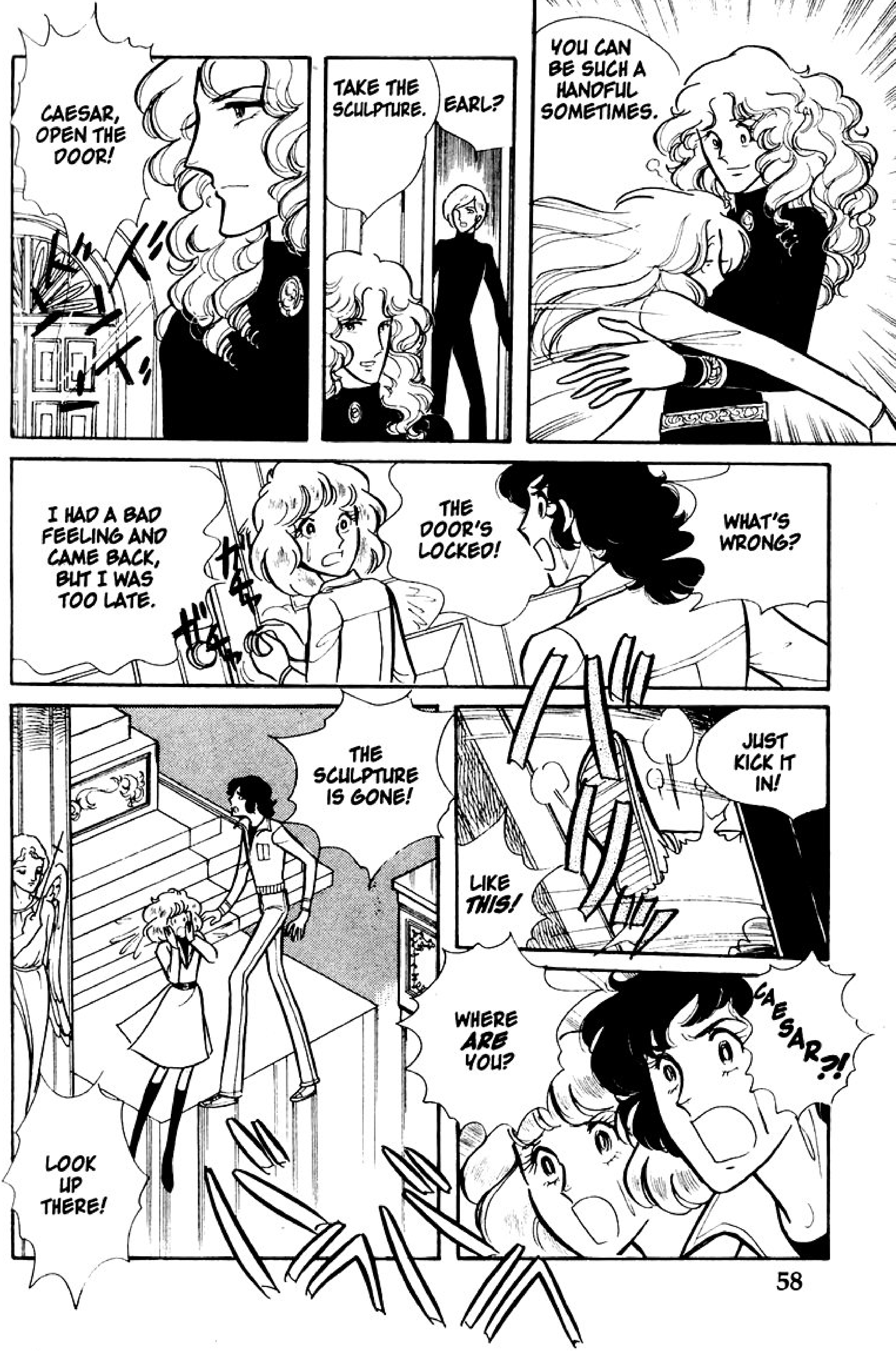

TELL THE ABBEY THAT WE SHALL BE ACQUIRING THE GABRIEL IN THREE DAYS' TIME AT MIDNIGHT.
BUT THIS IS...
YES, I KNOW. IT'S A TRAP, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
STILL, IT MIGHT BE FUN TO PLAY THIS LITTLE GAME.
THE MORE THE PREY RESISTS, THE MORE THRILLING THE HUNT.
ESPECIALLY IF IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
CAESAR, I WILL MAKE YOU MINE.
THE EARL CALLED THEM UP.
SO HE BOUGHT IT?!
GOOD THING I STAYED NEAR THE ABBEY AND EAVESDROPPED ON THE MONKS.
SO, WHEN?
THREE DAYS FROM NOW, AT AT MIDNIGHT. THE POLICE ARE GOING TO SET A TRAP.
WE'LL GO, TOO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CAESAR?
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
I'M NOT STAYING HERE ALONE.

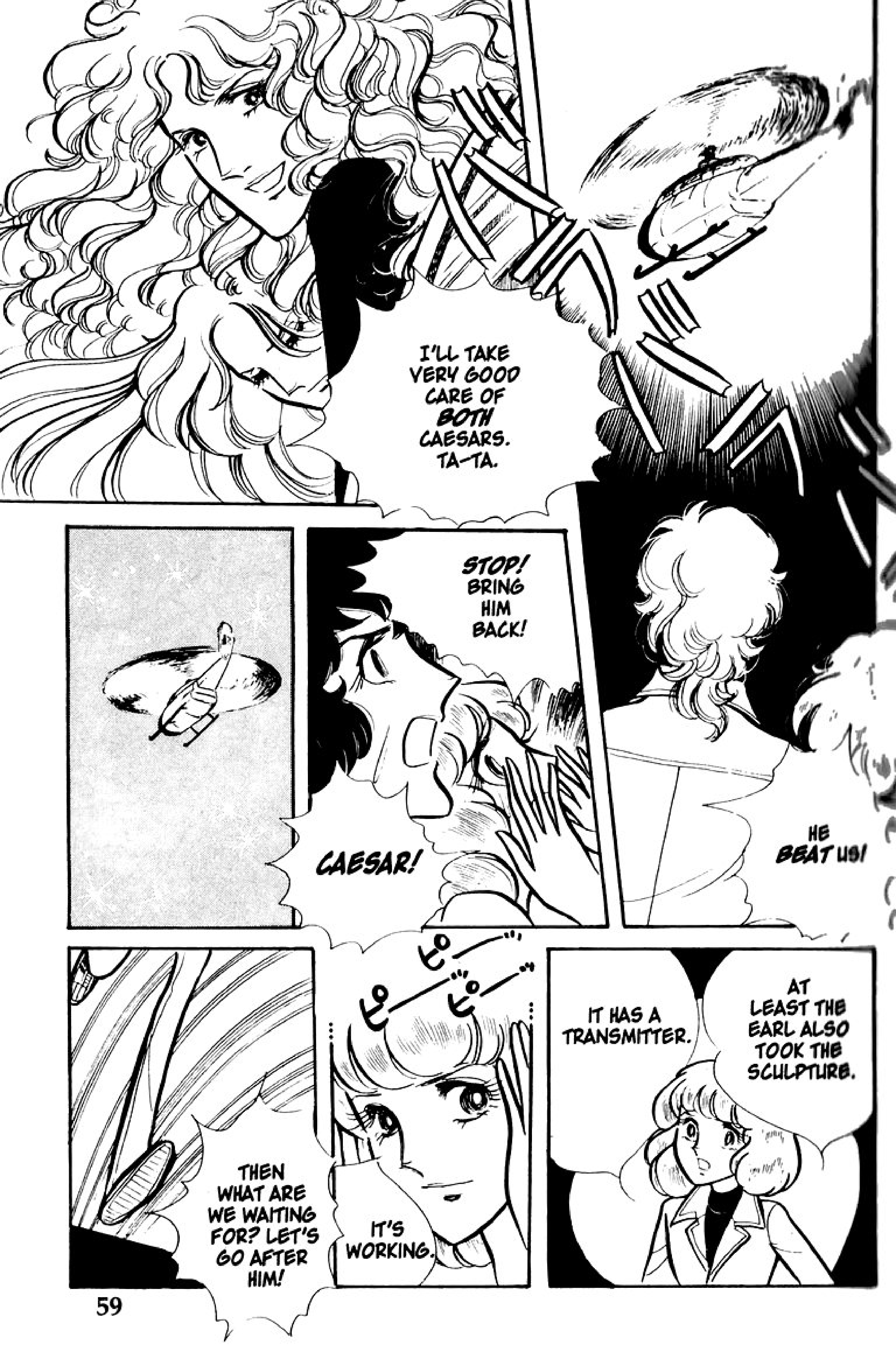

ANY-THING?
NO. NOTHING.
EVEN THE EROICA GANG CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THIS MUCH SECURITY.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THEM.
THEY'RE GOOD.
WHO'S HE?
DETECTIVE BANNAI, I THINK.
HE'S CERTAINLY HARD AT WORK.
FIVE MINUTES TO GO.
DO YOU THINK THE EARL WILL SHOW?
CAESAR, YOU'RE SHAKING ALL OVER.
BUCK UP. WE'RE WITH YA, MATE.
STILL, I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND IT'S GETTING CLOSER.

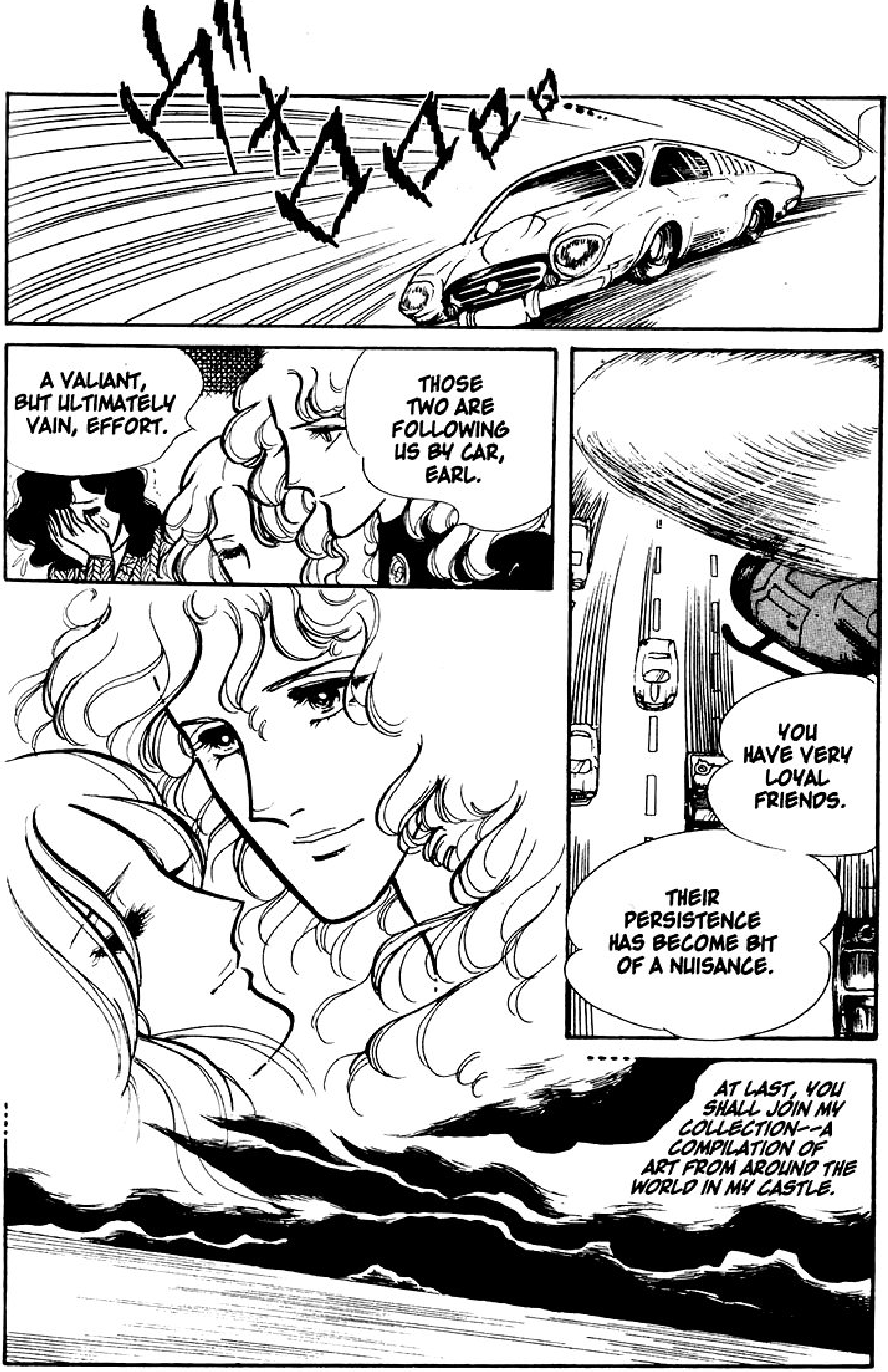

BRITISH MUSEUM
GAAH! IT'S EROICA!
POLICE?
THE EROICA GANG HAS SHOWN UP AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM!
WHAT THEY REALLY WANTED WAS HERE!
DARN! THIS WAS ALL A RUSE! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!
I'LL NEVER LIVE THIS DOWN!
QUICK! EVERYONE, TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM!
ON THE DOUBLE!
THE EARL KNEW THAT THERE WAS A TRAP AND USED THAT TO HIS ADVANTAGE.
SMART.

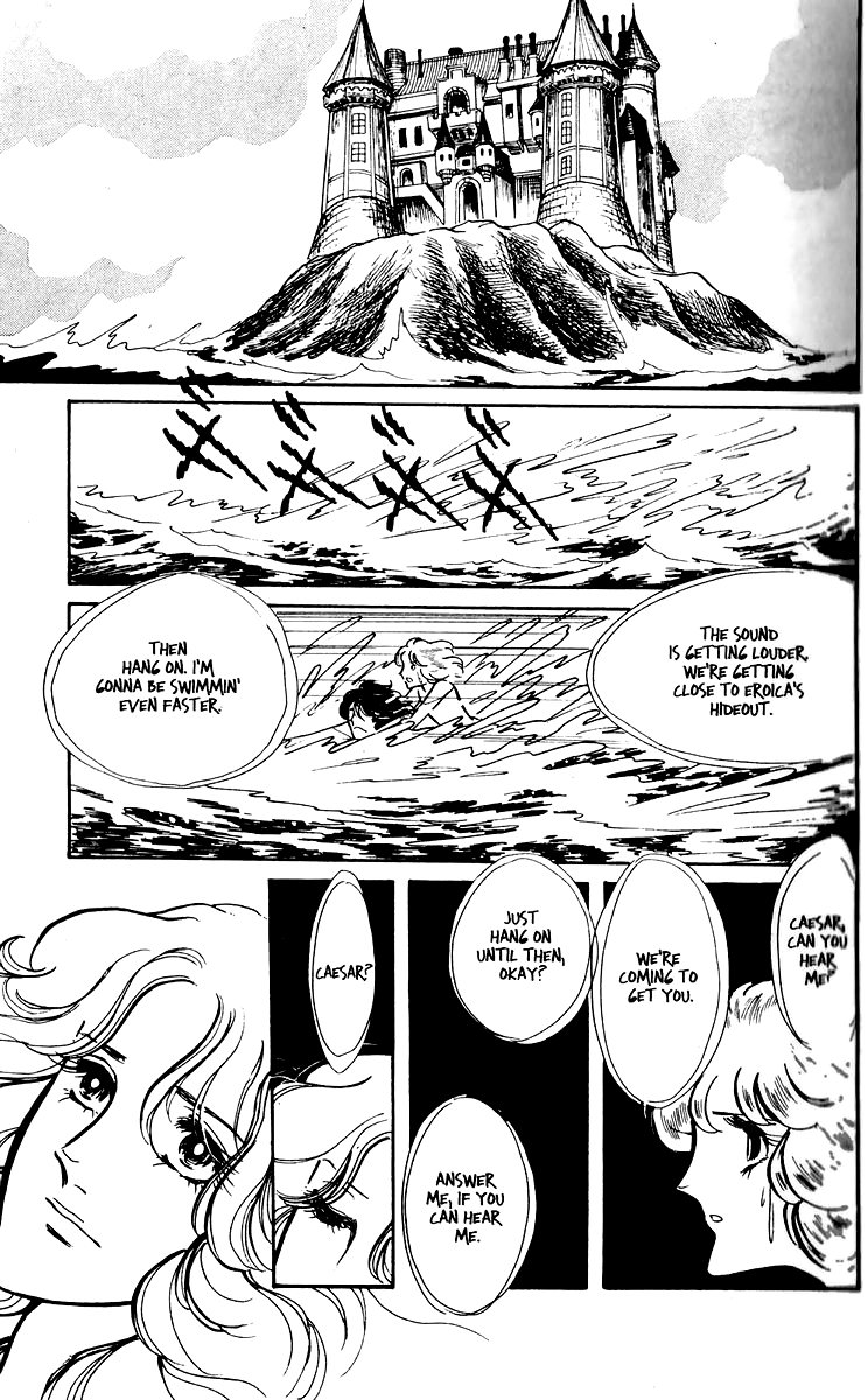

WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE.
STAY HERE.
IT ALL SEEMED TOO EASY.
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE EARL WOULD...
ACCORDING TO YOUR CALCULATIONS, *WHAT?*
ER...ER... B-B-BUT... BUT...ER... ER... *EARL!*

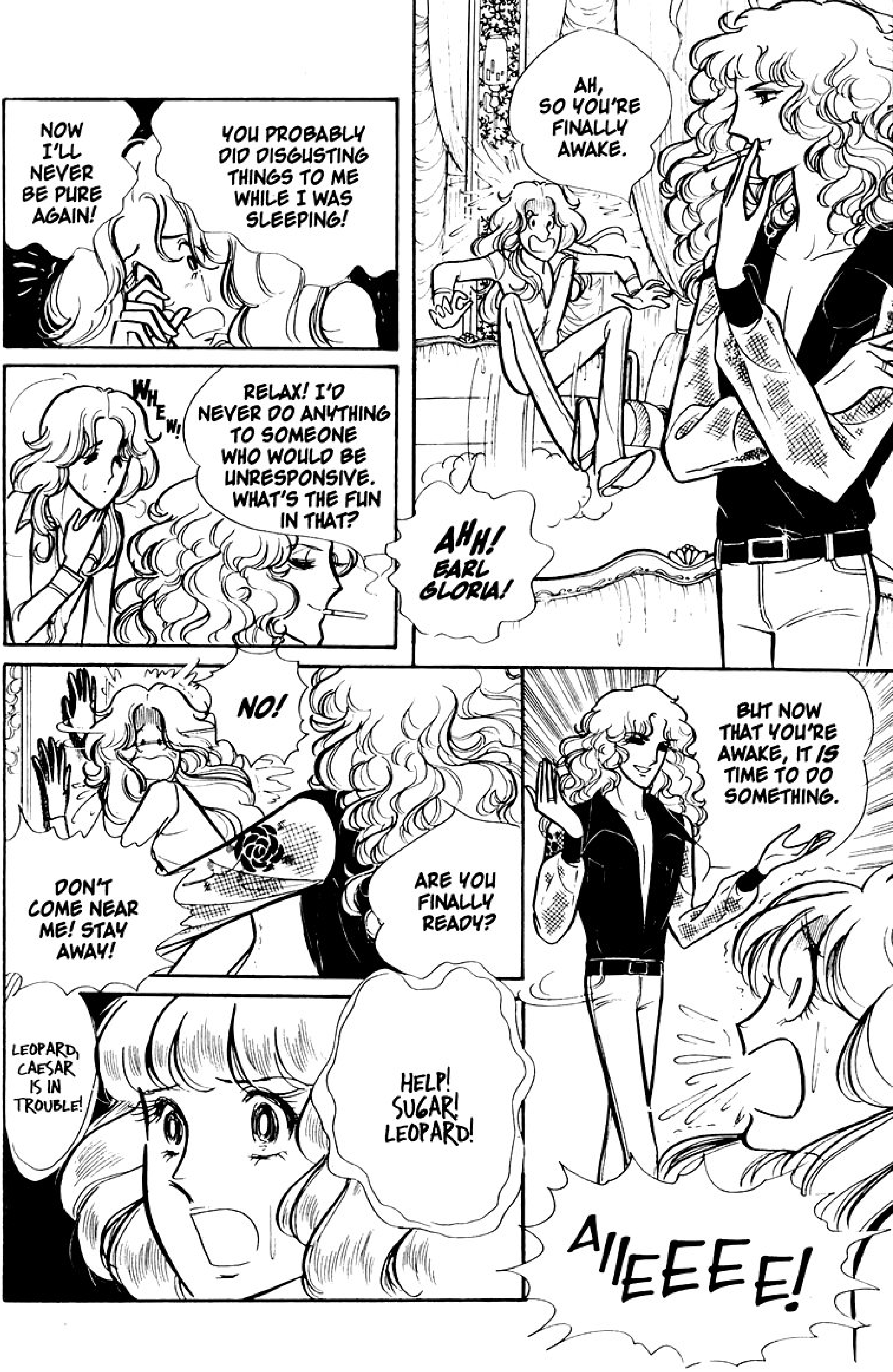

LIKE I SAID, I GET WHAT I WANT.
I MUST SAY, THIS IS WELL MADE. WE'LL TAKE THIS, TOO.
SHAME IT ISN'T A NUDE.
YOU'RE DISGUSTING!
HEY! THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!
YOU LOCKED IT!
NOW BE A GOOD LAD AND COME OVER HERE.
NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
THEN I WON'T.
BUT THIS WILL.
SHHH
EROICA
GAS... ZZZ...

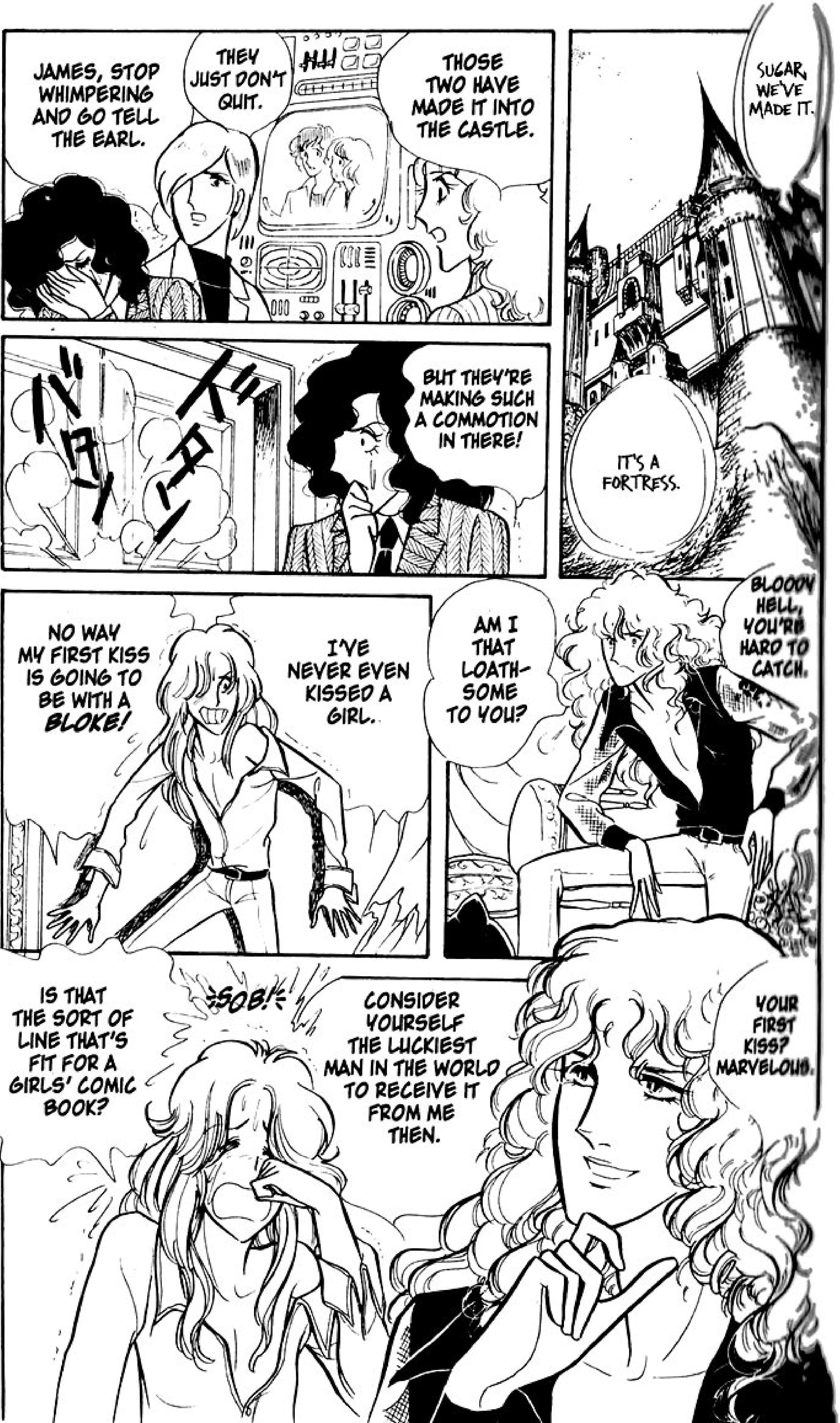

YOU CAN BE SUCH A HANDFUL SOMETIMES.
EARL?
TAKE THE SCULPTURE.
CAESAR, OPEN THE DOOR!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE DOOR'S LOCKED!
I HAD A BAD FEELING AND CAME BACK, BUT I WAS TOO LATE.
JUST KICK IT IN!
LIKE *THIS!*
THE SCULPTURE IS GONE!
CAESAR?!
WHERE *ARE* YOU?
LOOK UP THERE!

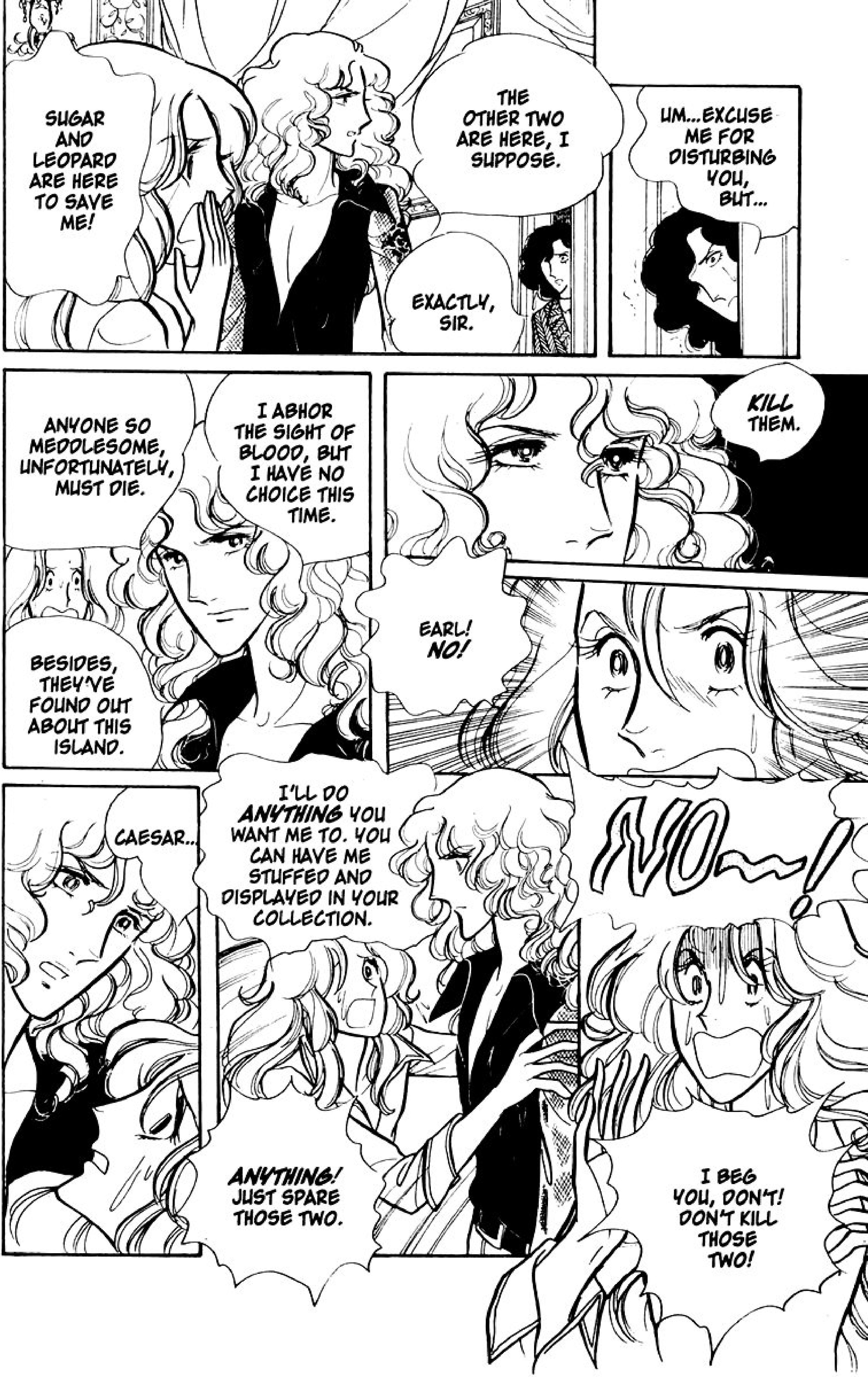

I'LL TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF *BOTH* CAESARS. TA-TA.
HE *BEAT* US!
STOP! BRING HIM BACK!
CAESAR!
AT LEAST THE EARL ALSO TOOK THE SCULPTURE.
IT HAS A TRANSMITTER.
ぴ—ッ ぴ—ッ
IT'S WORKING.
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO AFTER HIM!

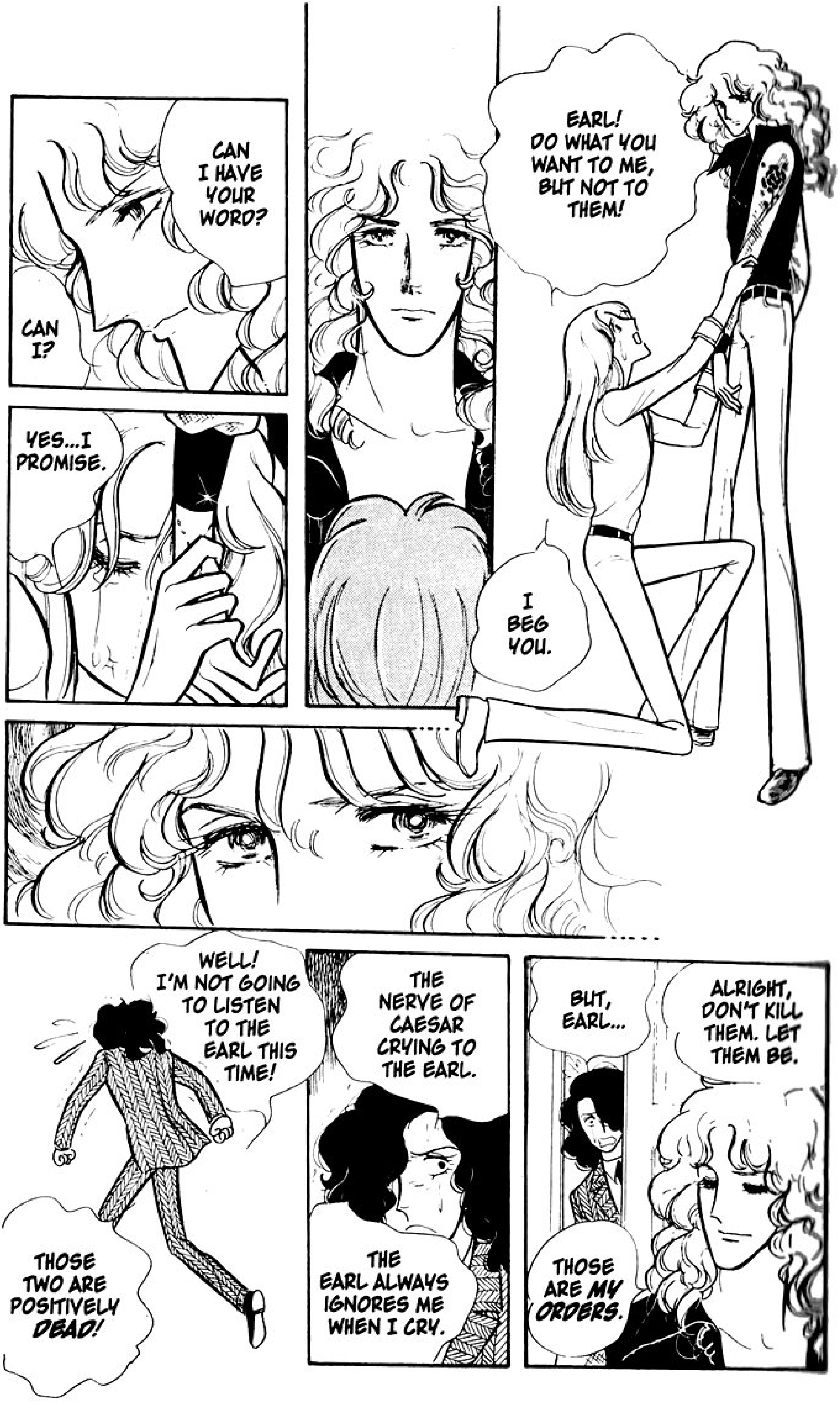

ブォロロロロ……
THOSE TWO ARE FOLLOWING US BY CAR, EARL.
A VALIANT, BUT ULTIMATELY VAIN, EFFORT.
YOU HAVE VERY LOYAL FRIENDS.
THEIR PERSISTENCE HAS BECOME BIT OF A NUISANCE.
....
AT LAST, YOU SHALL JOIN MY COLLECTION--A COMPILATION OF ART FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN MY CASTLE.

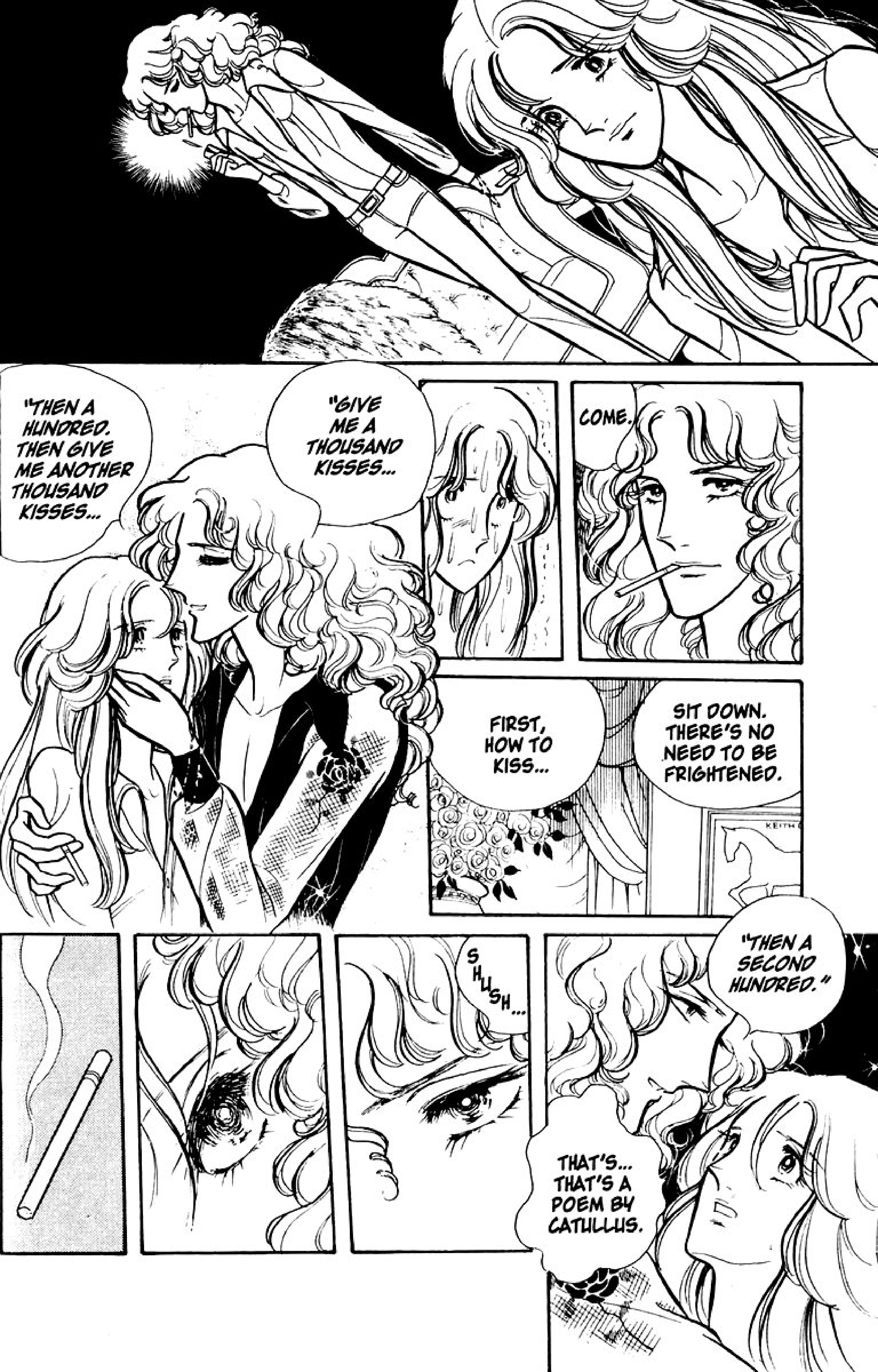

THE SOUND IS GETTING LOUDER. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO EROICA'S HIDEOUT.
THEN HANG ON. I'M GONNA BE SWIMMIN' EVEN FASTER.
CAESAR, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WE'RE COMING TO GET YOU.
JUST HANG ON UNTIL THEN, OKAY?
ANSWER ME, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME.
CAESAR?

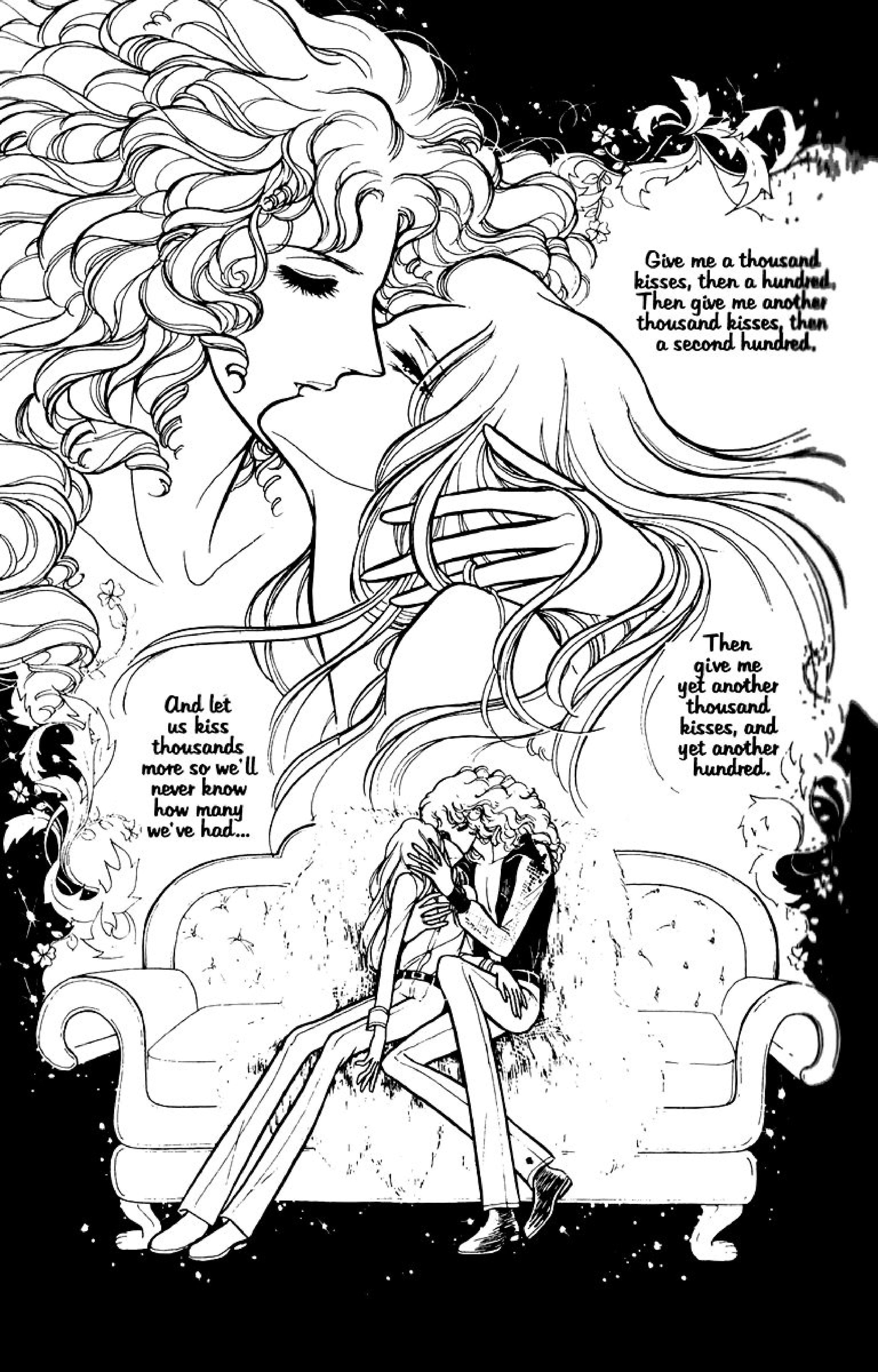

AH, SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
AHH! EARL GLORIA!
YOU PROBABLY DID DISGUSTING THINGS TO ME WHILE I WAS SLEEPING!
NOW I'LL NEVER BE PURE AGAIN!
RELAX! I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE UNRESPONSIVE. WHAT'S THE FUN IN THAT?
WHEW!
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE, IT IS TIME TO DO SOMETHING.
ARE YOU FINALLY READY?
NO!
DON'T COME NEAR ME! STAY AWAY!
AIIEEEEE!
HELP! SUGAR! LEOPARD!
LEOPARD, CAESAR IS IN TROUBLE!

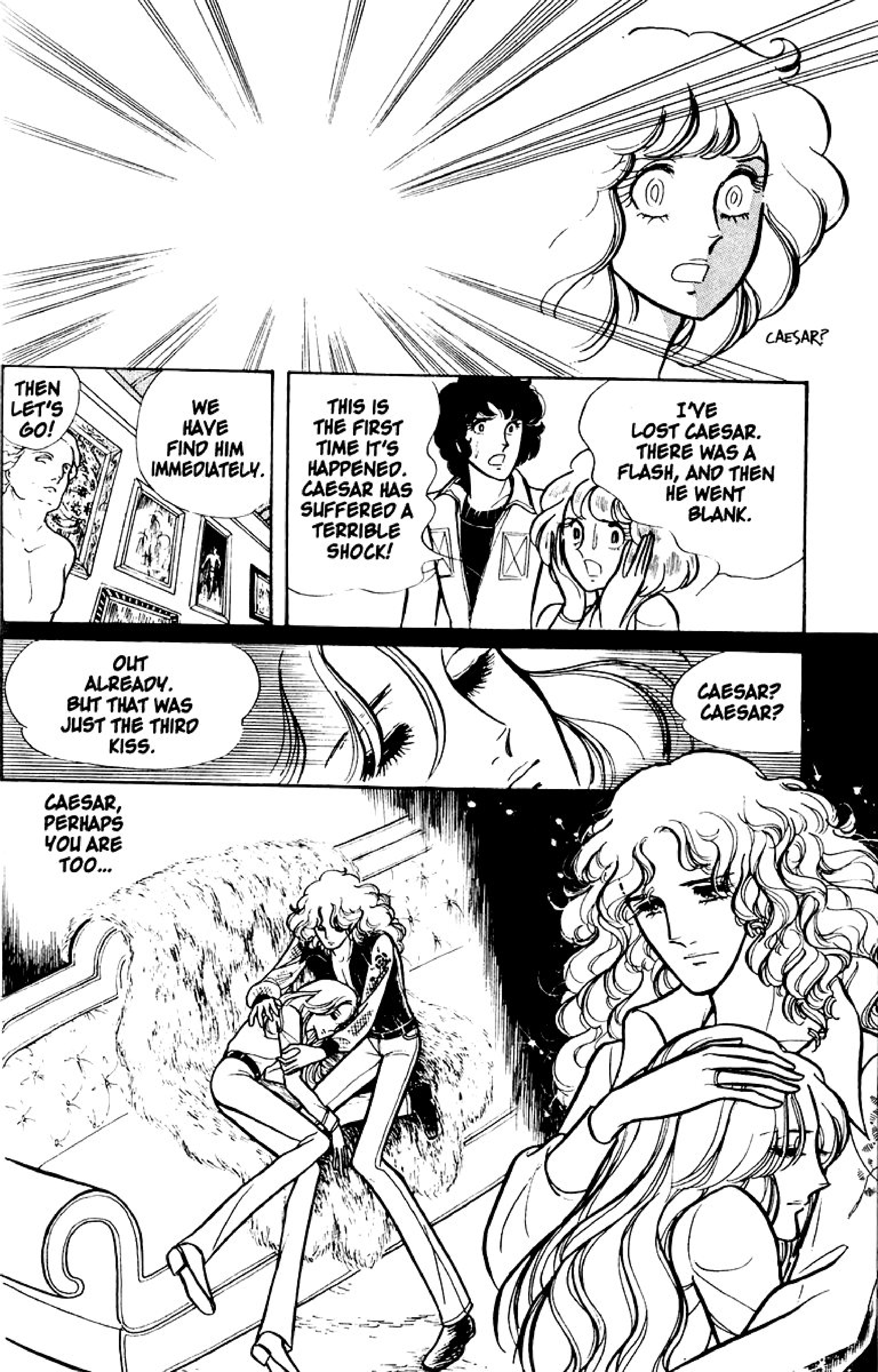

SUGAR, WE'VE MADE IT.
IT'S A FORTRESS.
THOSE TWO HAVE MADE IT INTO THE CASTLE.
THEY JUST DON'T QUIT.
JAMES, STOP WHIMPERING AND GO TELL THE EARL.
BUT THEY'RE MAKING SUCH A COMMOTION IN THERE!
ドターン
バタン
BLOODY HELL, YOU'RE HARD TO CATCH.
AM I THAT LOATHSOME TO YOU?
I'VE NEVER EVEN KISSED A GIRL.
NO WAY MY FIRST KISS IS GOING TO BE WITH A *BLOKE!*
YOUR FIRST KISS? MARVELOUS.
CONSIDER YOURSELF THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD TO RECEIVE IT FROM ME THEN.
SOB!
IS THAT THE SORT OF LINE THAT'S FIT FOR A GIRLS' COMIC BOOK?

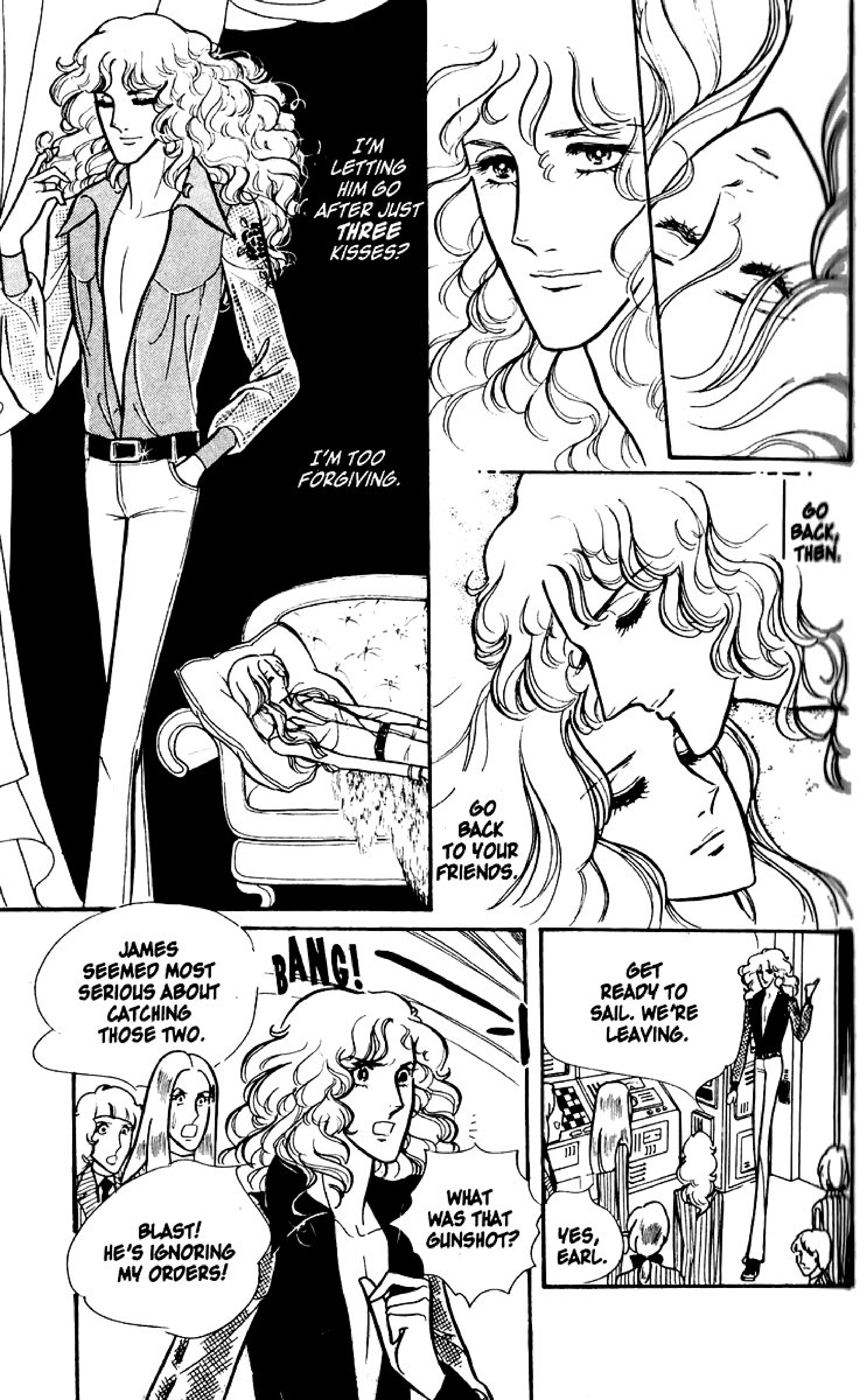

SUGAR AND LEOPARD ARE HERE TO SAVE ME!
THE OTHER TWO ARE HERE, I SUPPOSE.
EXACTLY, SIR.
UM...EXCUSE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU, BUT...
ANYONE SO MEDDLESOME, UNFORTUNATELY, MUST DIE.
I ABHOR THE SIGHT OF BLOOD, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE THIS TIME.
BESIDES, THEY'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS ISLAND.
KILL THEM.
EARL! *NO!*
CAESAR...
I'LL DO *ANYTHING* YOU WANT ME TO. YOU CAN HAVE ME STUFFED AND DISPLAYED IN YOUR COLLECTION.
ANYTHING! JUST SPARE THOSE TWO.
NO~!
I BEG YOU, DON'T! DON'T KILL THOSE TWO!

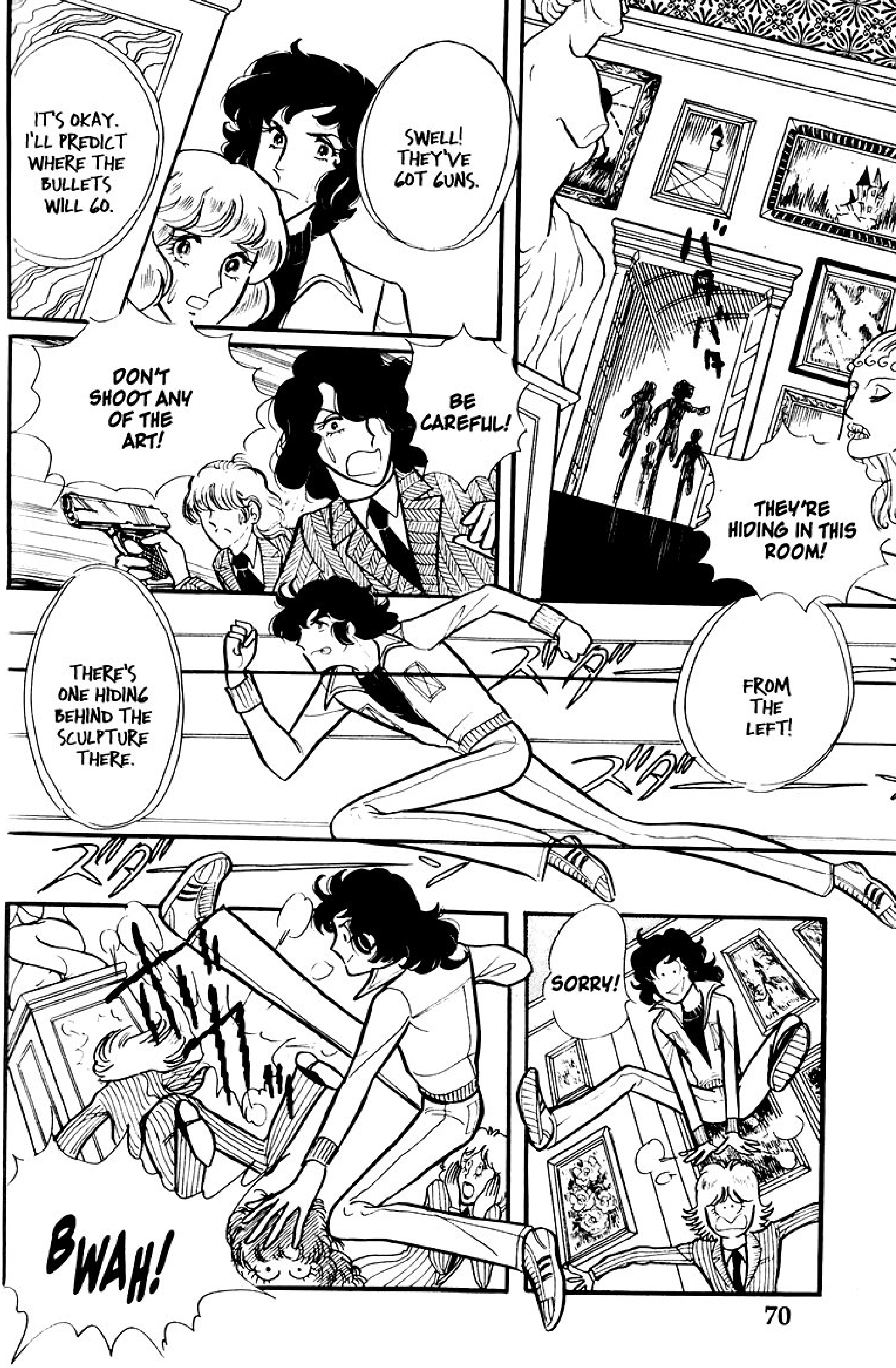

EARL! DO WHAT YOU WANT TO ME, BUT NOT TO THEM!
I BEG YOU.
CAN I HAVE YOUR WORD?
CAN I?
YES...I PROMISE.
ALRIGHT, DON'T KILL THEM. LET THEM BE.
BUT, EARL...
THOSE ARE *MY ORDERS*.
THE NERVE OF CAESAR CRYING TO THE EARL.
THE EARL ALWAYS IGNORES ME WHEN I CRY.
WELL! I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO THE EARL THIS TIME!
THOSE TWO ARE POSITIVELY *DEAD!*

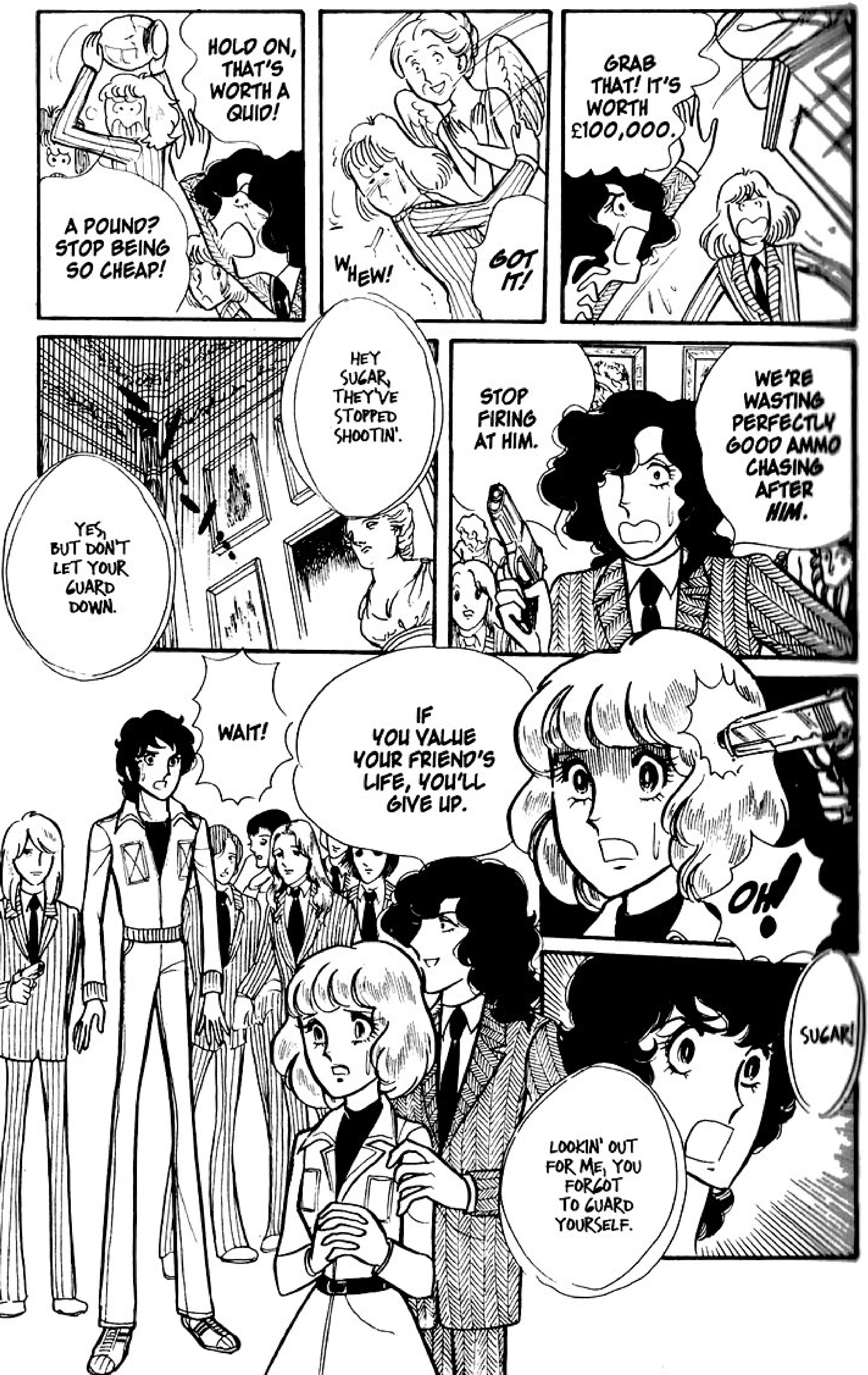

COME.
SIT DOWN. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED.
FIRST, HOW TO KISS...
KEITH
"GIVE ME A THOUSAND KISSES...
"THEN A HUNDRED. THEN GIVE ME ANOTHER THOUSAND KISSES...
"THEN A SECOND HUNDRED."
THAT'S... THAT'S A POEM BY CATULLUS.
SHUSH...

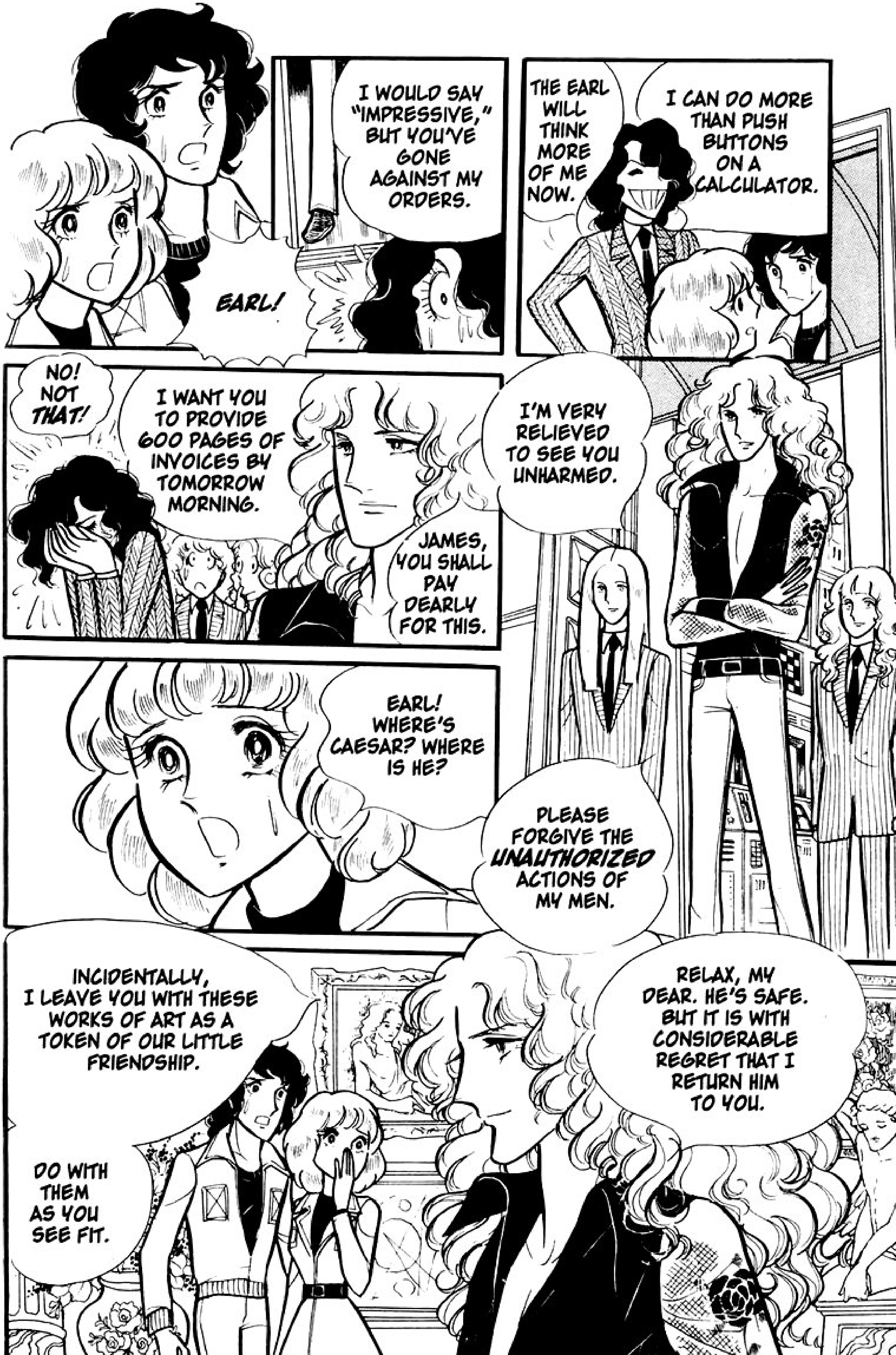

Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred. Then give me another thousand kisses, then a second hundred.
Then give me yet another thousand kisses, and yet another hundred.
And let us kiss thousands more so we'll never know how many we've had...

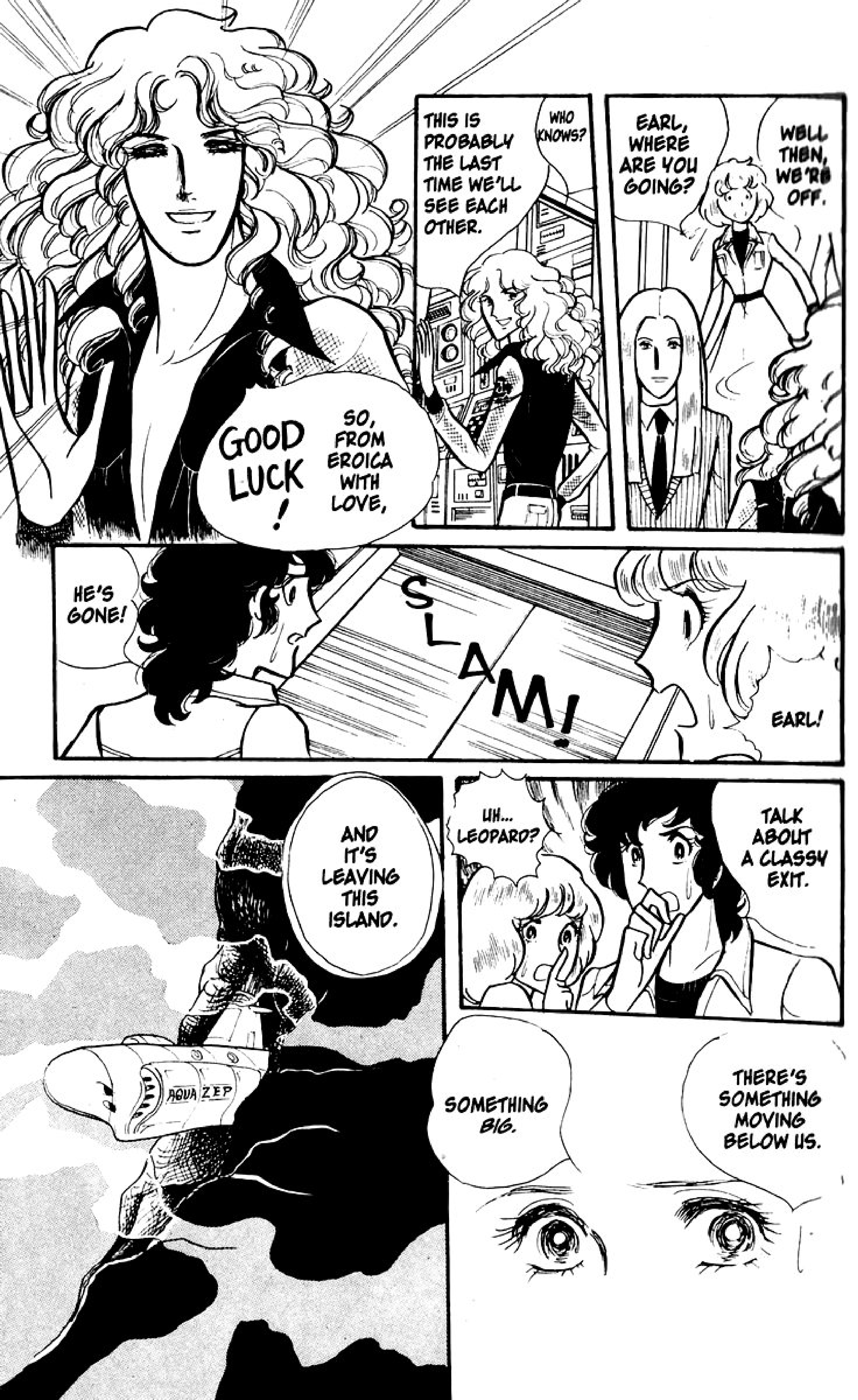

CAESAR?
I'VE LOST CAESAR. THERE WAS A FLASH, AND THEN HE WENT BLANK.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT'S HAPPENED. CAESAR HAS SUFFERED A TERRIBLE SHOCK!
WE HAVE FIND HIM IMMEDIATELY.
THEN LET'S GO!
CAESAR? CAESAR?
OUT ALREADY. BUT THAT WAS JUST THE THIRD KISS.
CAESAR, PERHAPS YOU ARE TOO...

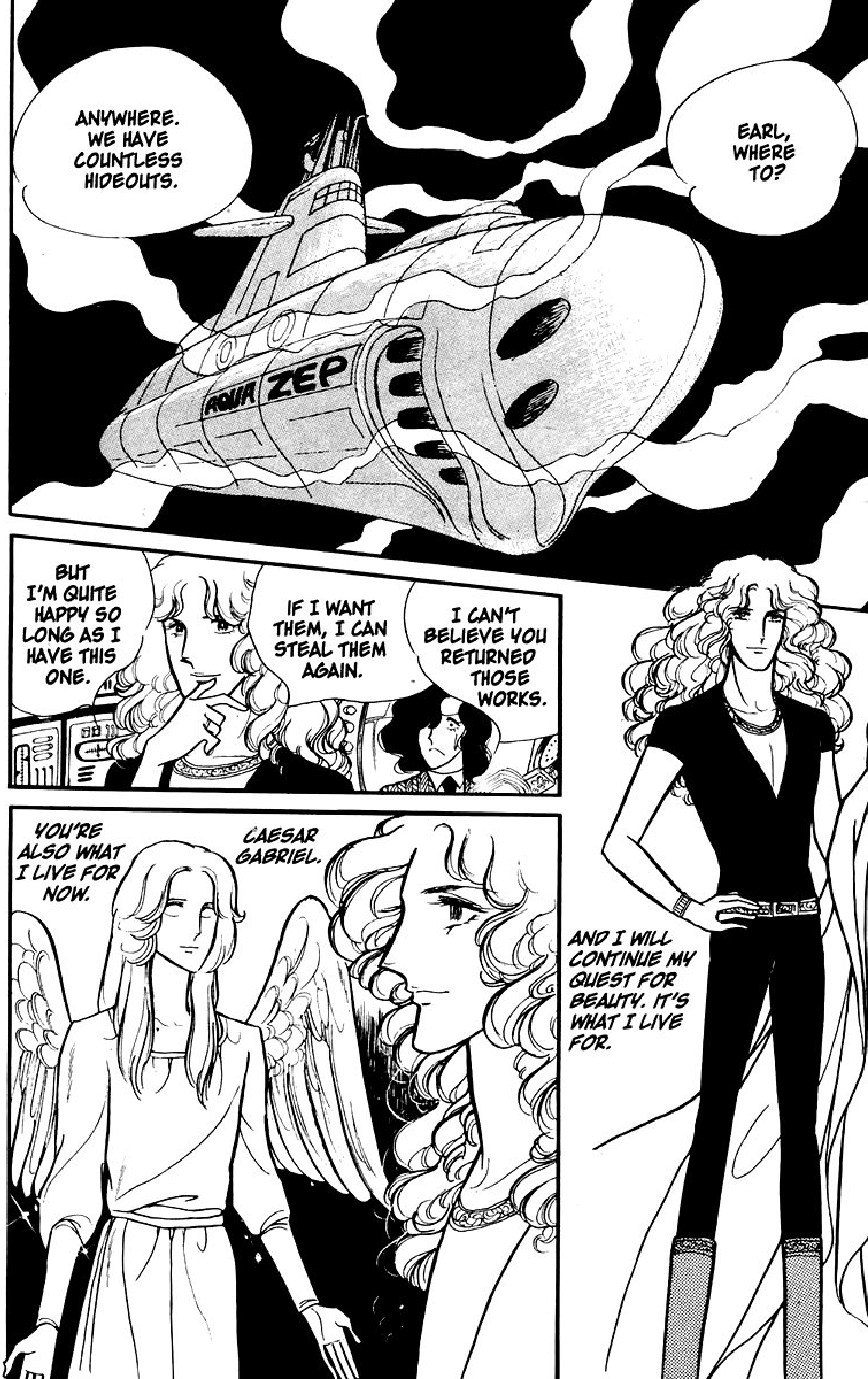

GO BACK, THEN.
GO BACK TO YOUR FRIENDS.
I'M LETTING HIM GO AFTER JUST THREE KISSES?
I'M TOO FORGIVING.
GET READY TO SAIL. WE'RE LEAVING.
YES, EARL.
BANG!
WHAT WAS THAT GUNSHOT?
JAMES SEEMED MOST SERIOUS ABOUT CATCHING THOSE TWO.
BLAST! HE'S IGNORING MY ORDERS!

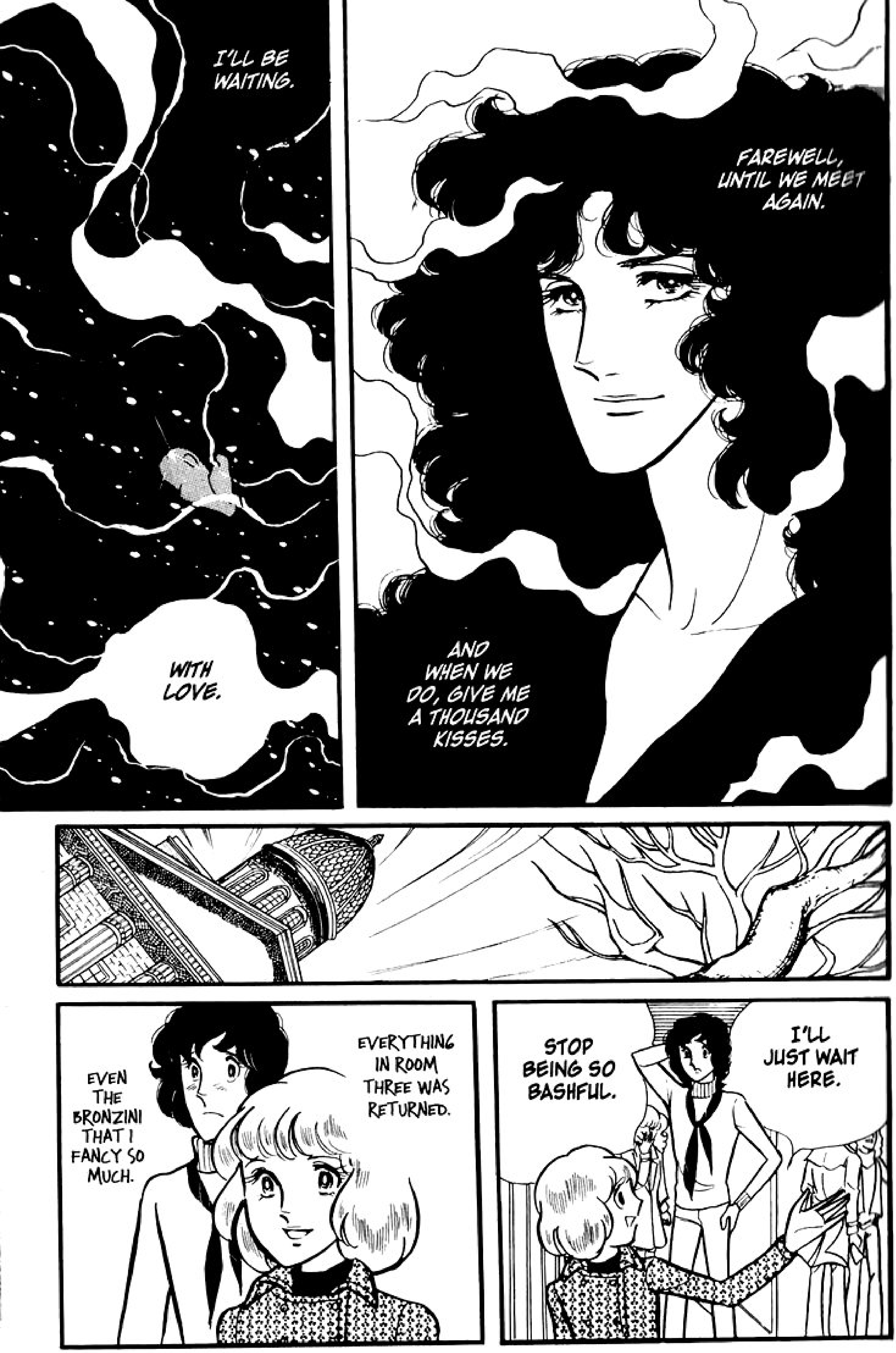

バタバタ
THEY'RE HIDING IN THIS ROOM!
SWELL! THEY'VE GOT GUNS.
IT'S OKAY. I'LL PREDICT WHERE THE BULLETS WILL GO.
BE CAREFUL!
DON'T SHOOT ANY OF THE ART!
ズバッ
FROM THE LEFT!
ズバッ
THERE'S ONE HIDING BEHIND THE SCULPTURE THERE.
ズバッ
SORRY!
BWAH!

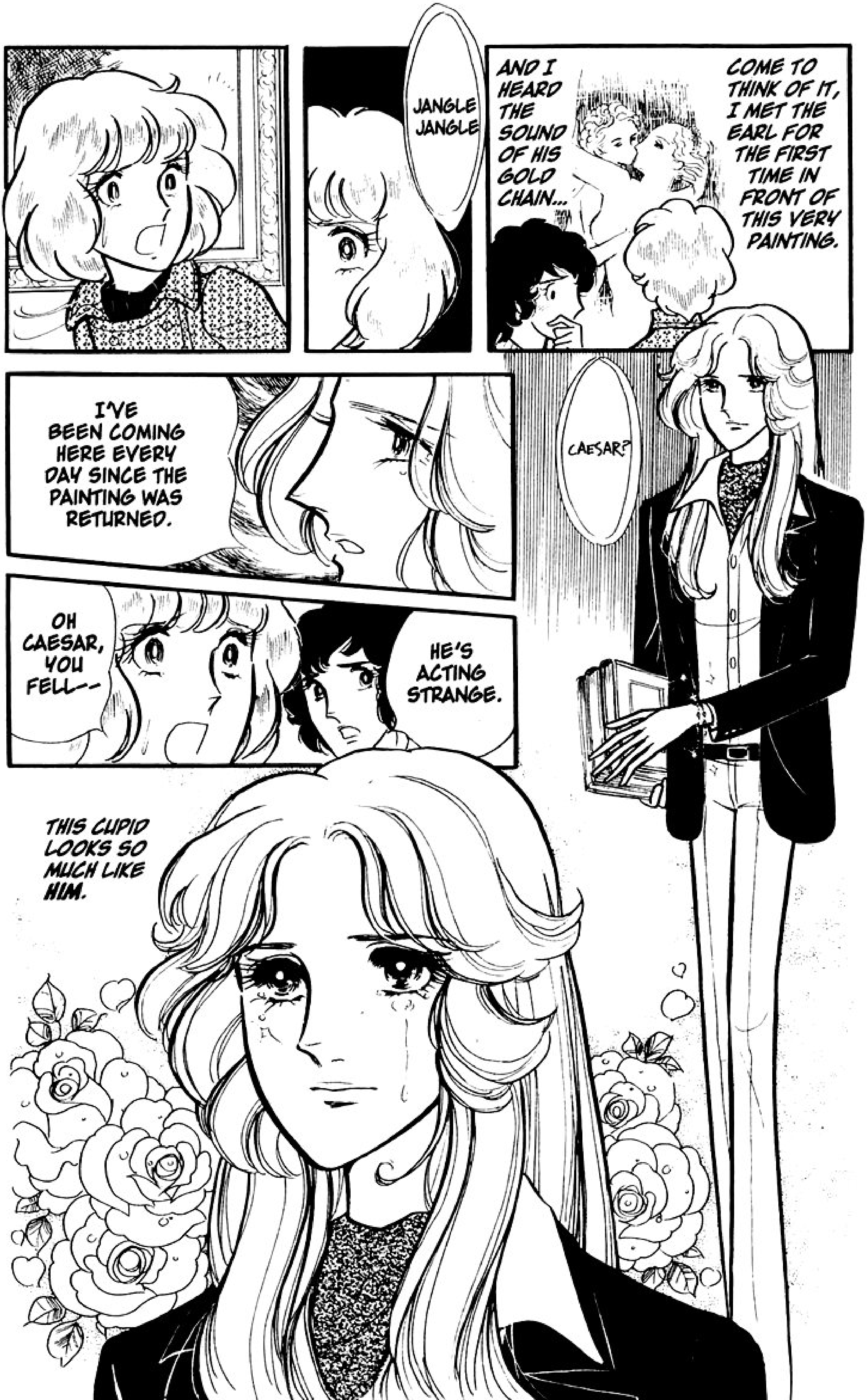

HOLD ON, THAT'S WORTH A QUID!
A POUND? STOP BEING SO CHEAP!
WHEW!
GOT IT!
GRAB THAT! IT'S WORTH £100,000.
HEY SUGAR, THEY'VE STOPPED SHOOTIN'.
YES, BUT DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
STOP FIRING AT HIM.
WE'RE WASTING PERFECTLY GOOD AMMO CHASING AFTER *HIM*.
WAIT!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE, YOU'LL GIVE UP.
OH!
SUGAR!
LOOKIN' OUT FOR ME, YOU FORGOT TO GUARD YOURSELF.

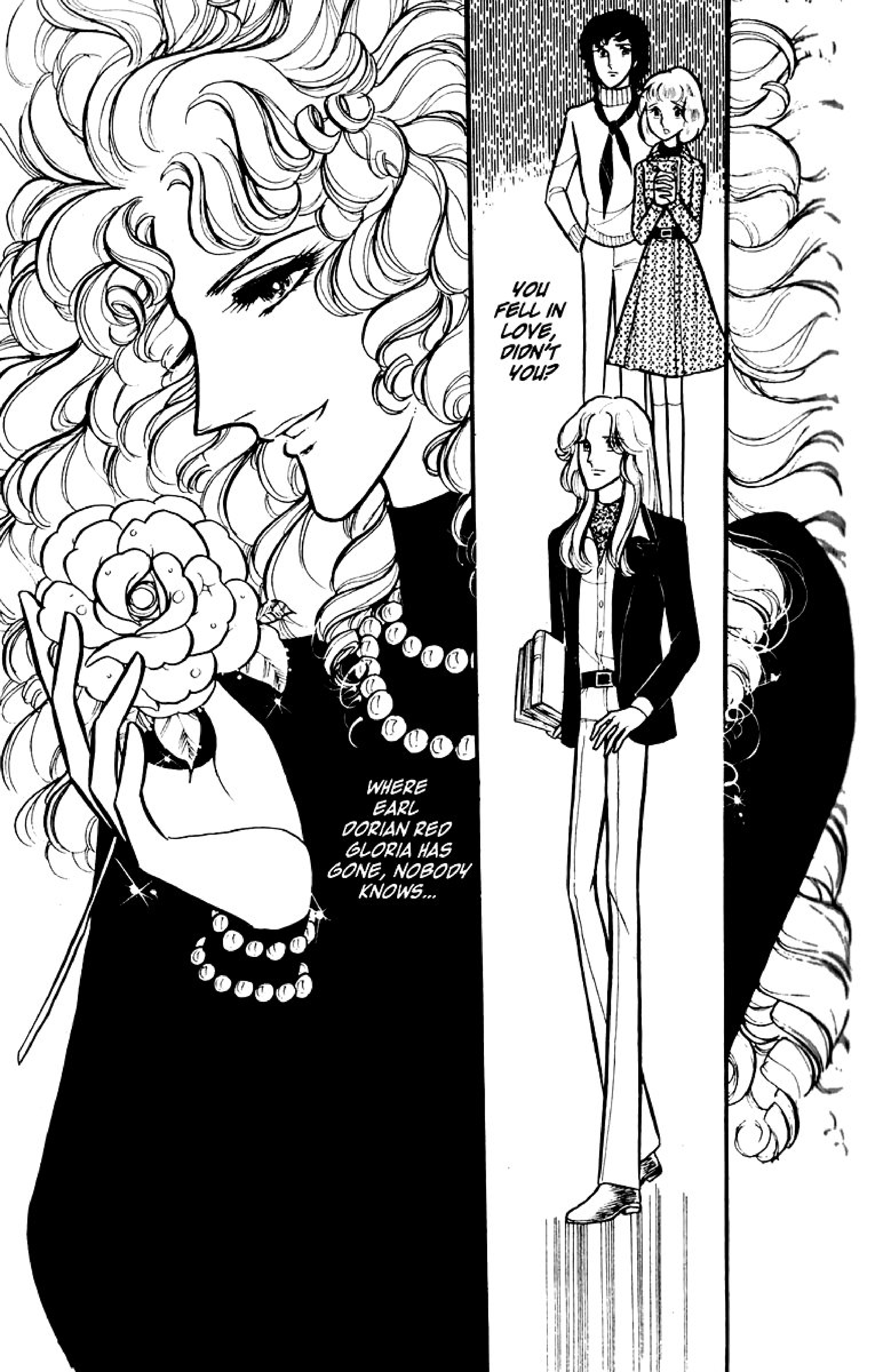

EARL!
I WOULD SAY "IMPRESSIVE," BUT YOU'VE GONE AGAINST MY ORDERS.
THE EARL WILL THINK MORE OF ME NOW.
I CAN DO MORE THAN PUSH BUTTONS ON A CALCULATOR.
I'M VERY RELIEVED TO SEE YOU UNHARMED.
PLEASE FORGIVE THE *UNAUTHORIZED* ACTIONS OF MY MEN.
JAMES, YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS.
I WANT YOU TO PROVIDE 600 PAGES OF INVOICES BY TOMORROW MORNING.
NO! NOT *THAT!*
EARL! WHERE'S CAESAR? WHERE IS HE?
RELAX, MY DEAR. HE'S SAFE. BUT IT IS WITH CONSIDERABLE REGRET THAT I RETURN HIM TO YOU.
INCIDENTALLY, I LEAVE YOU WITH THESE WORKS OF ART AS A TOKEN OF OUR LITTLE FRIENDSHIP.
DO WITH THEM AS YOU SEE FIT.

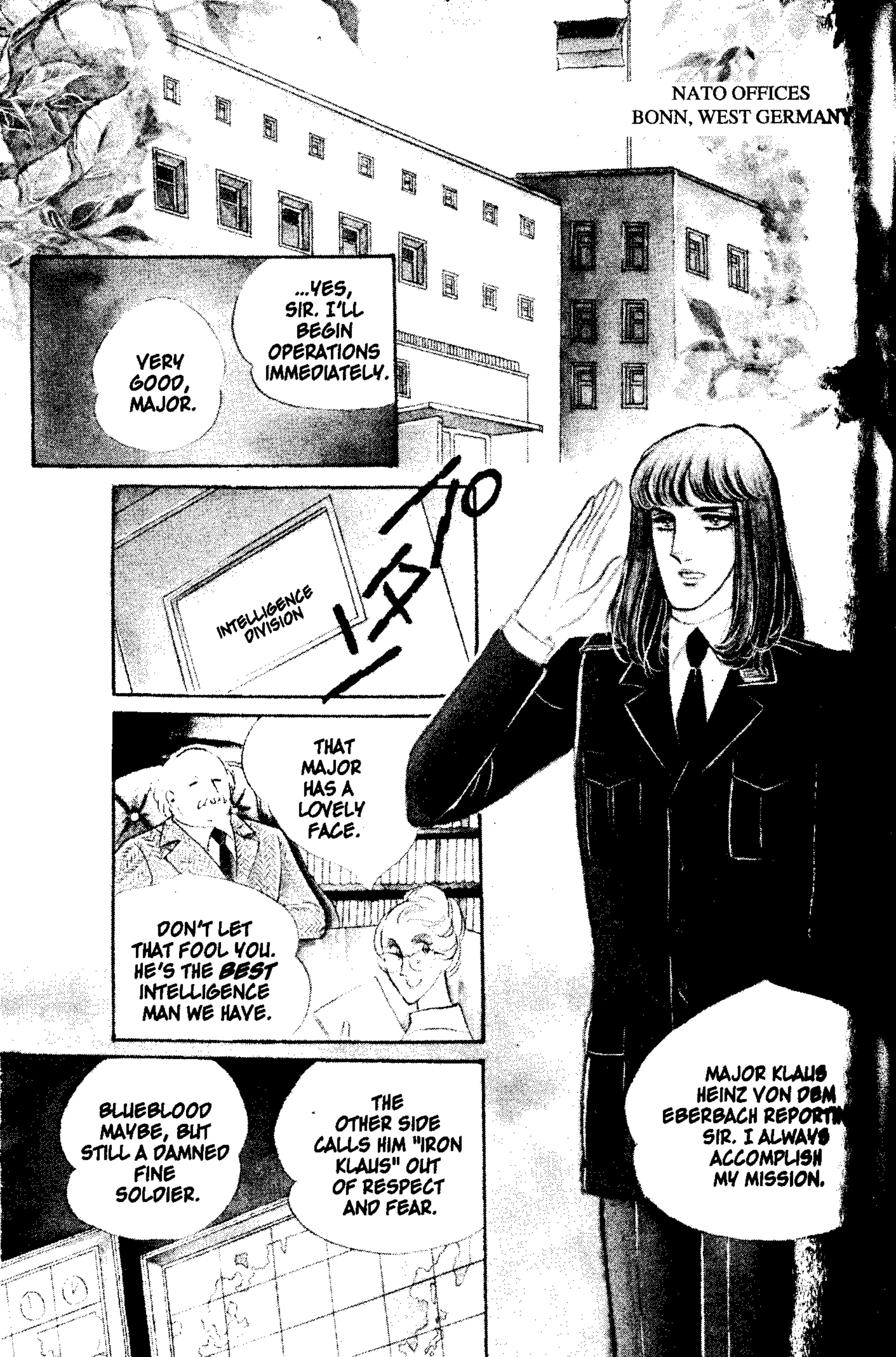

WELL THEN, WE'RE OFF.
EARL, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHO KNOWS?
THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST TIME WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER.
SO, FROM EROICA WITH LOVE,
GOOD LUCK!
EARL!
SLAM!
HE'S GONE!
TALK ABOUT A CLASSY EXIT.
UH... LEOPARD?
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING BELOW US.
SOMETHING BIG.
AND IT'S LEAVING THIS ISLAND.
AQUA ZEP


EARL, WHERE TO?
ANYWHERE. WE HAVE COUNTLESS HIDEOUTS.
AQUA ZEP
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU RETURNED THOSE WORKS.
IF I WANT THEM, I CAN STEAL THEM AGAIN.
BUT I'M QUITE HAPPY SO LONG AS I HAVE THIS ONE.
AND I WILL CONTINUE MY QUEST FOR BEAUTY. IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR.
CAESAR GABRIEL.
YOU'RE ALSO WHAT I LIVE FOR NOW.


FAREWELL, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
AND WHEN WE DO, GIVE ME A THOUSAND KISSES.
I'LL BE WAITING.
WITH LOVE.
I'LL JUST WAIT HERE.
STOP BEING SO BASHFUL.
EVERYTHING IN ROOM THREE WAS RETURNED.
EVEN THE BRONZINI THAT I FANCY SO MUCH.


COME TO THINK OF IT, I MET THE EARL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FRONT OF THIS VERY PAINTING.
AND I HEARD THE SOUND OF HIS GOLD CHAIN...
JANGLE JANGLE
CAESAR?
I'VE BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY SINCE THE PAINTING WAS RETURNED.
OH CAESAR, YOU FELL--
HE'S ACTING STRANGE.
THIS CUPID LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE HIM.


YOU FELL IN LOVE, DIDN'T YOU?
WHERE EARL DORIAN RED GLORIA HAS GONE, NOBODY KNOWS...


NATO OFFICES
BONN, WEST GERMANY
...YES, SIR. I'LL BEGIN OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY.
VERY GOOD, MAJOR.
パタン
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
THAT MAJOR HAS A LOVELY FACE.
DON'T LET THAT FOOL YOU. HE'S THE *BEST* INTELLIGENCE MAN WE HAVE.
THE OTHER SIDE CALLS HIM "IRON KLAUS" OUT OF RESPECT AND FEAR.
BLUEBLOOD MAYBE, BUT STILL A DAMNED FINE SOLDIER.
MAJOR KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH REPORTIN SIR. I ALWAYS ACCOMPLISH MY MISSION.

CMX

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

AOIKE YASUKO

1

CMX

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

AOIKE YASUKO

1

CMX 劇 DRAMA

Flamboyant British aristocrat by day—mysterious international art thief by night. Nothing can stop Eroica from getting that which his heart desires!

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

A young art professor sets out to capture the thief—only to find himself a target!

Earl Dorian Red Gloria is a great lover of art and all things beautiful. By night, he is the mysterious international art thief who leaves notes signed "From Eroica with Love" at the scene of his crimes. Caesar, a renowned art professor, sets out to stop Eroica and his gang, only to find himself captured by the Earl. Now Major Klaus, a German intelligence officer, must rescue the ill-fated scholar and apprehend the thief.

DIRECT SALES
00111
7 61941 24660 4

$9.95 USA **$15.25** CAN
ISBN: 1-4012-0519-4
CMXMANGA.COM

TEEN
SEXUAL THEMES

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

Vol. 1

By Aoike Yasuko

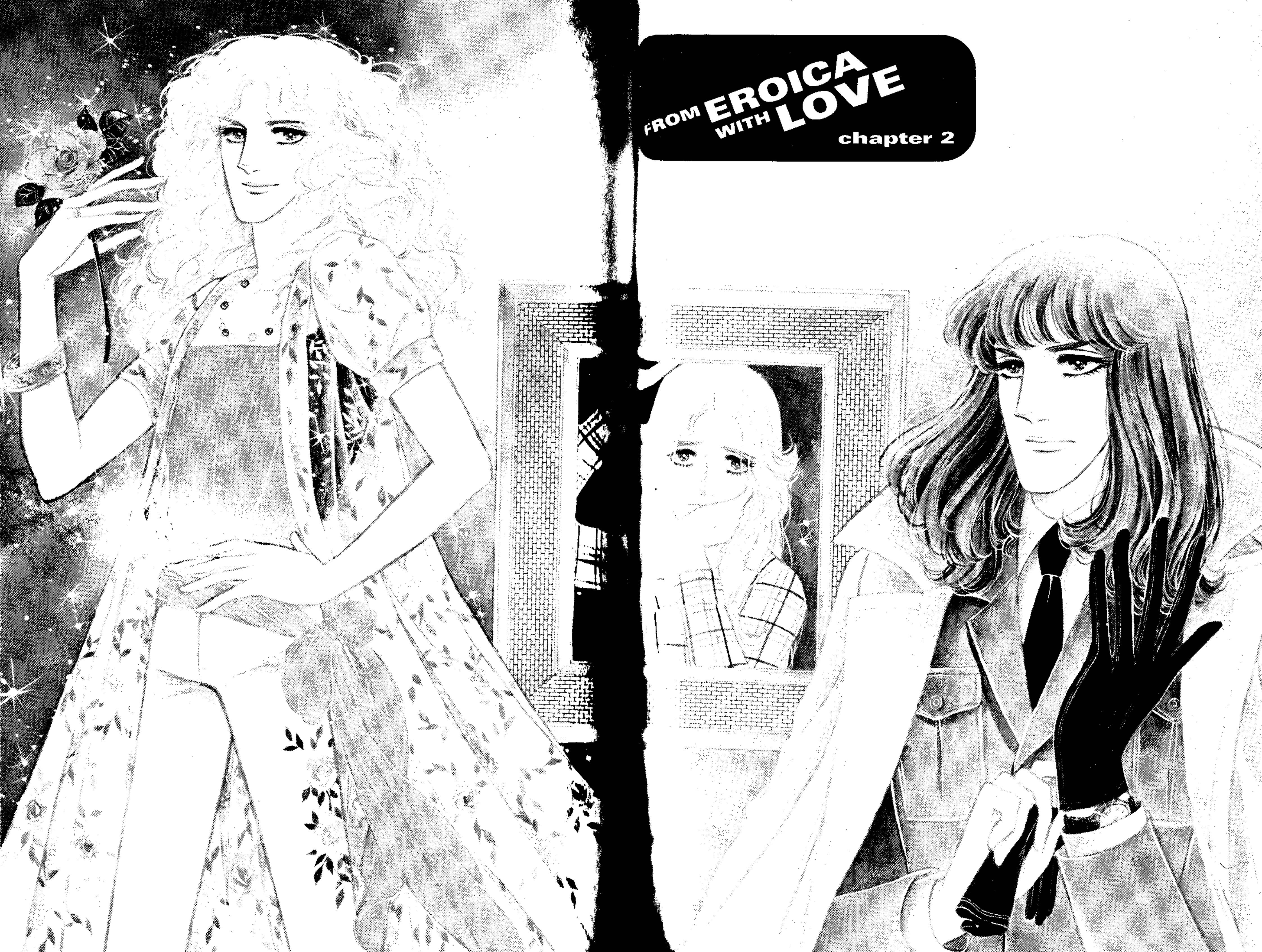
contents

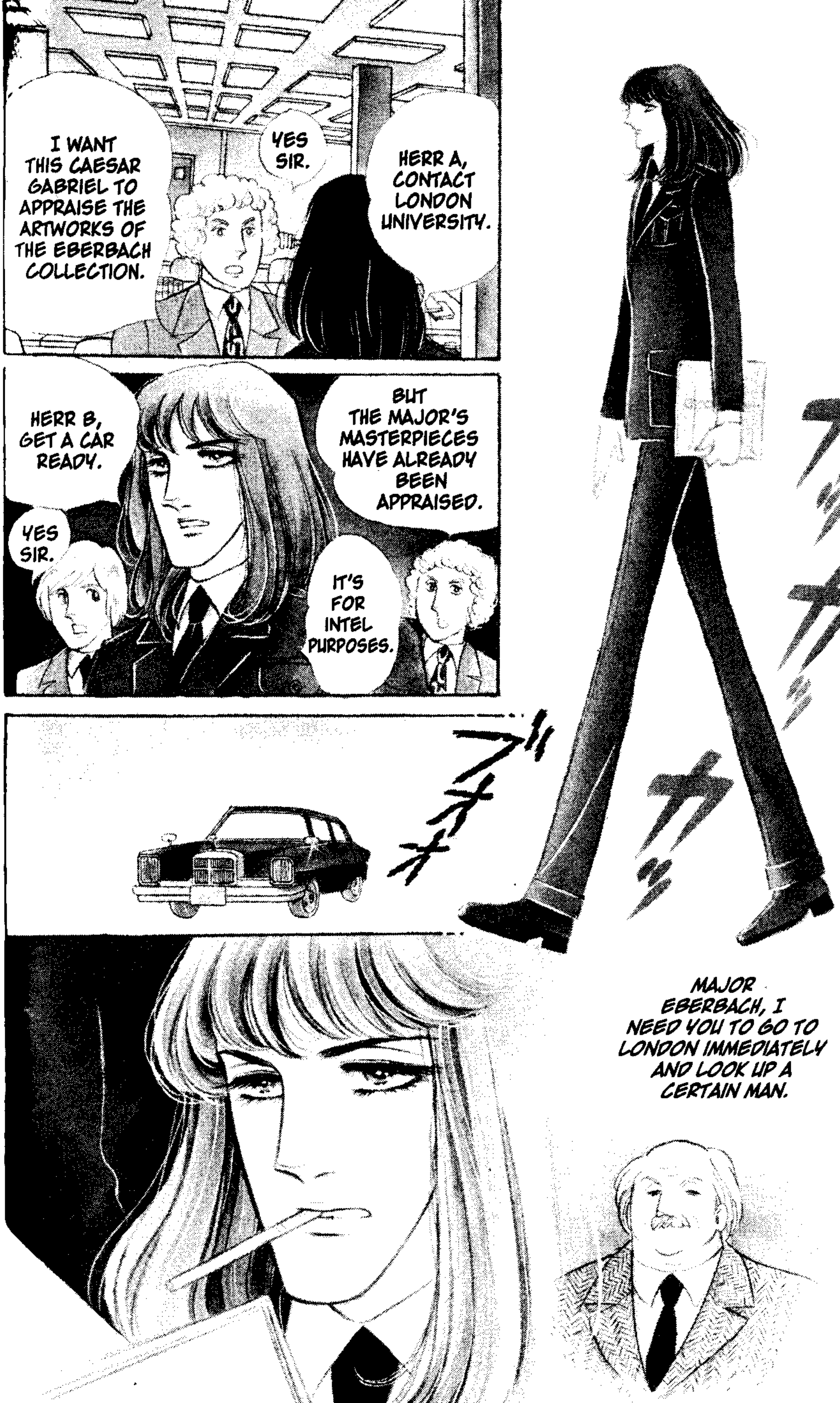
3 Chapter 1
79 Chapter 2
155 Chapter 3

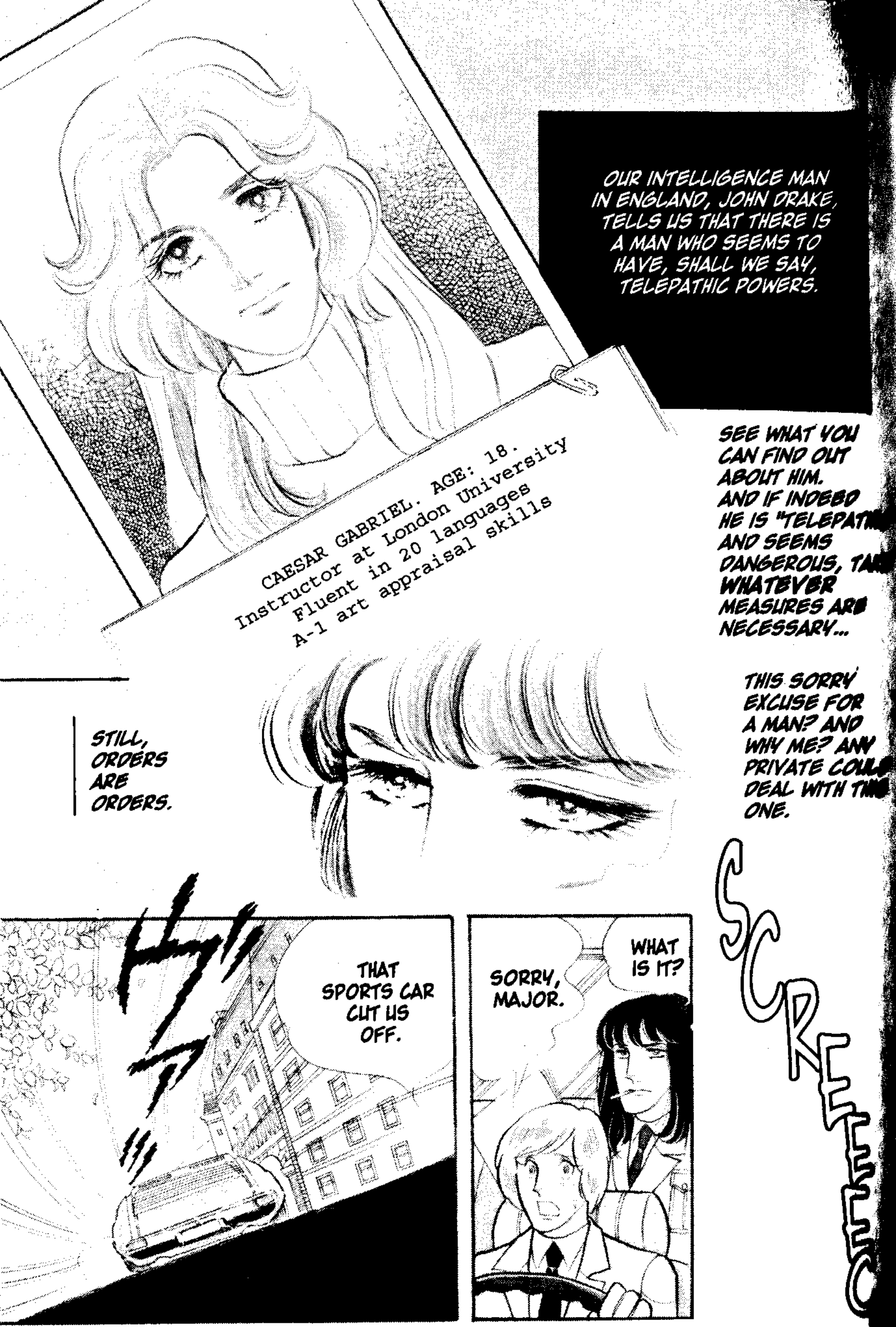
FROM EROICA
WITH LOVE
1

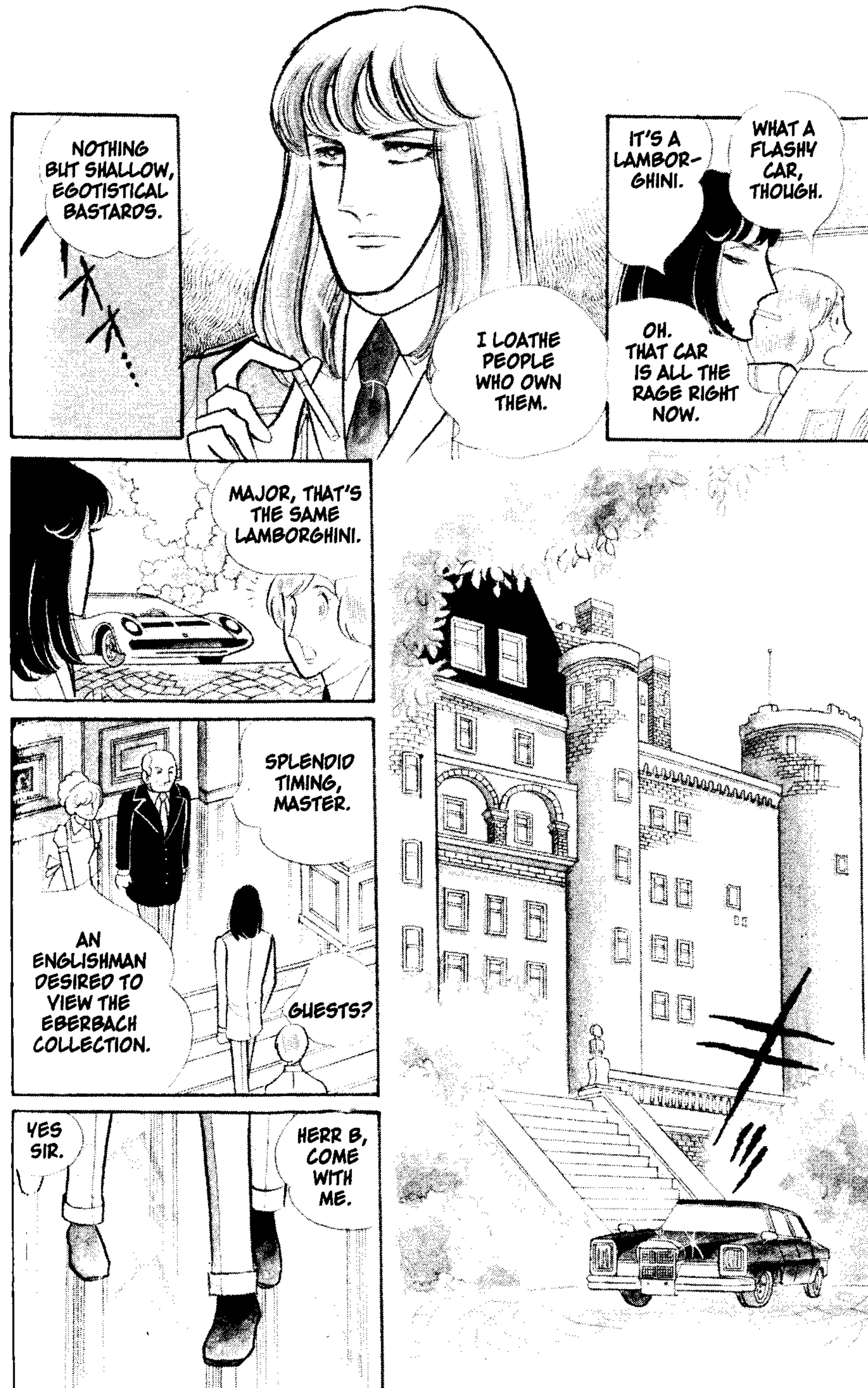
FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

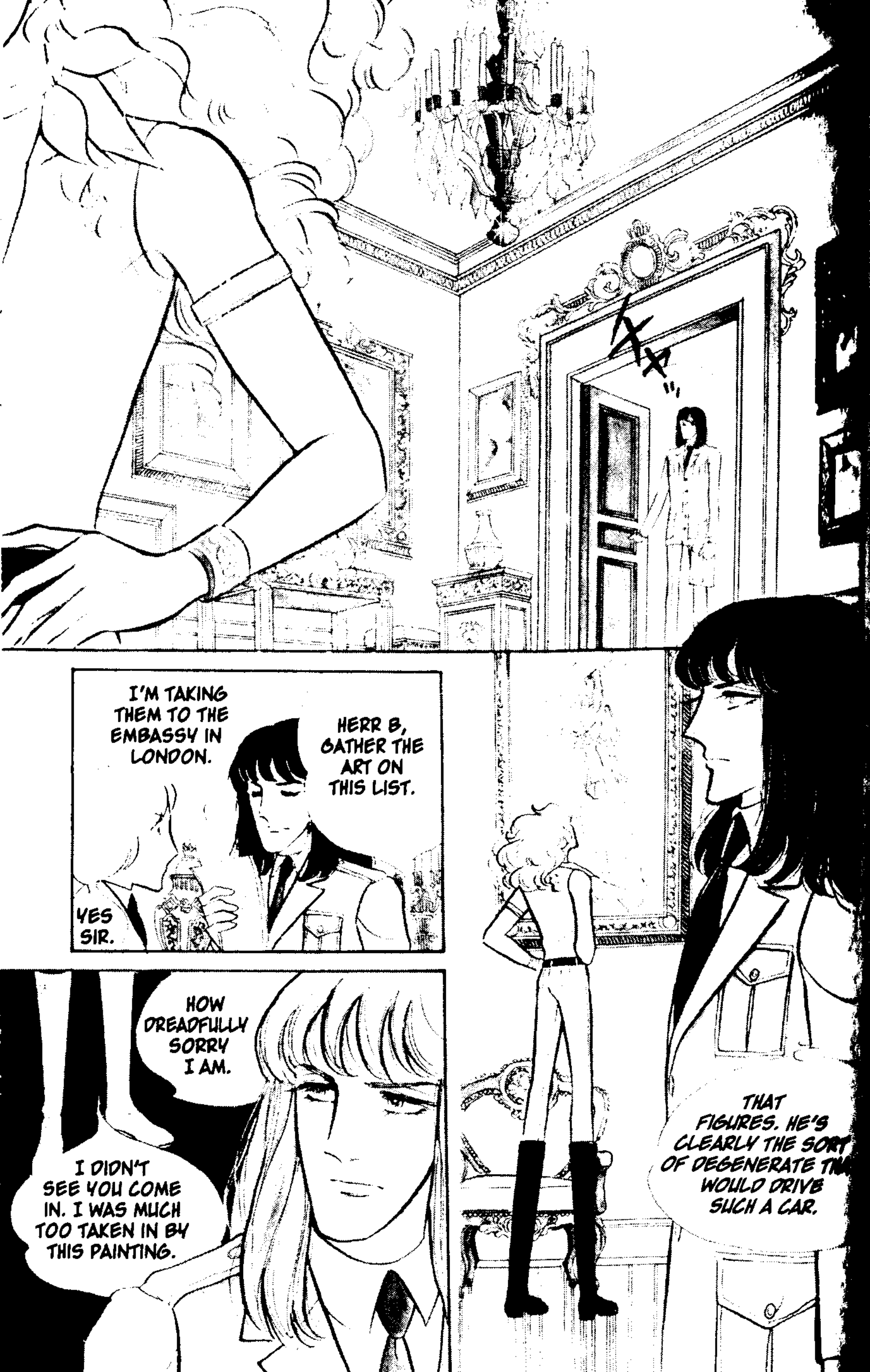
chapter 2

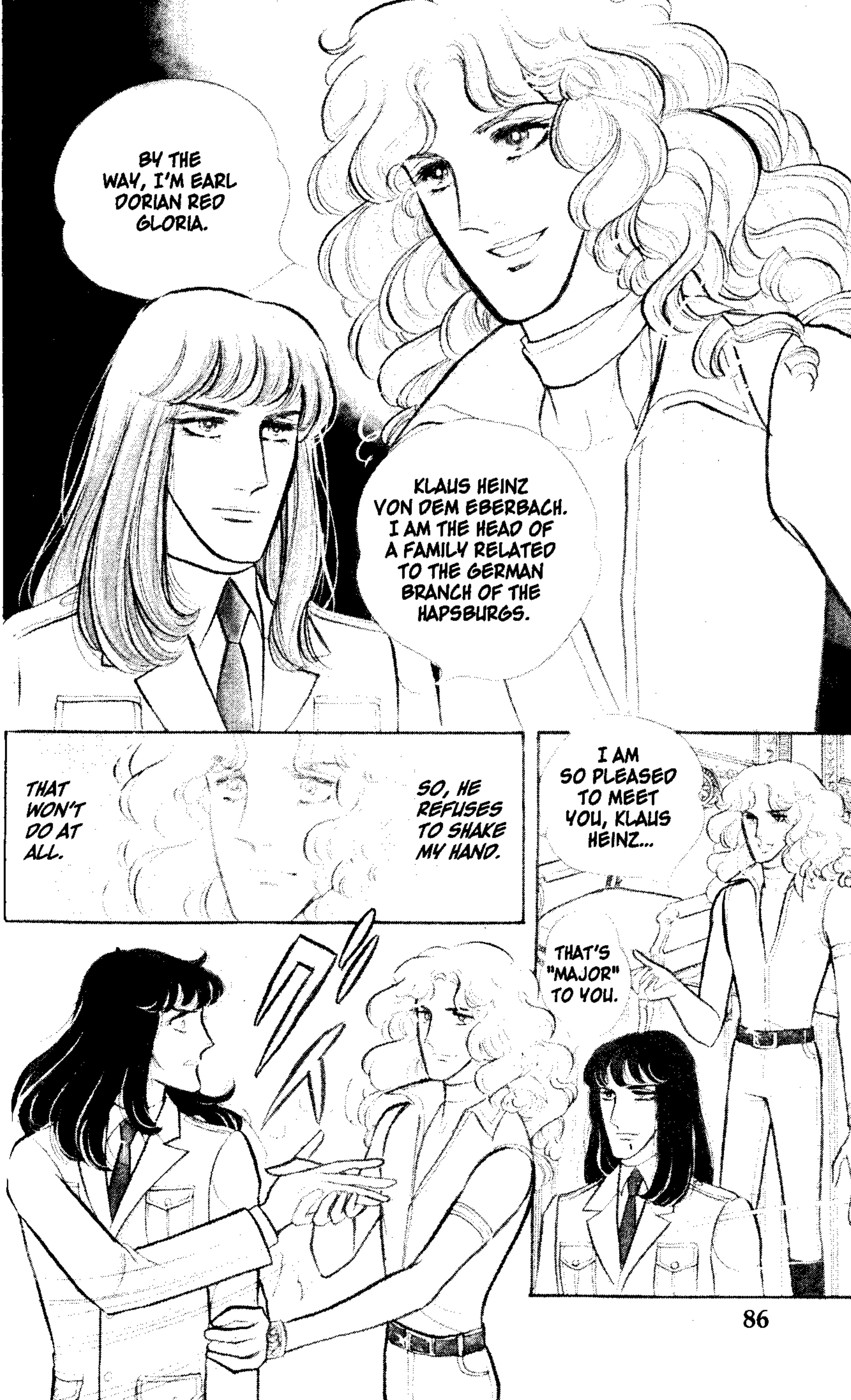


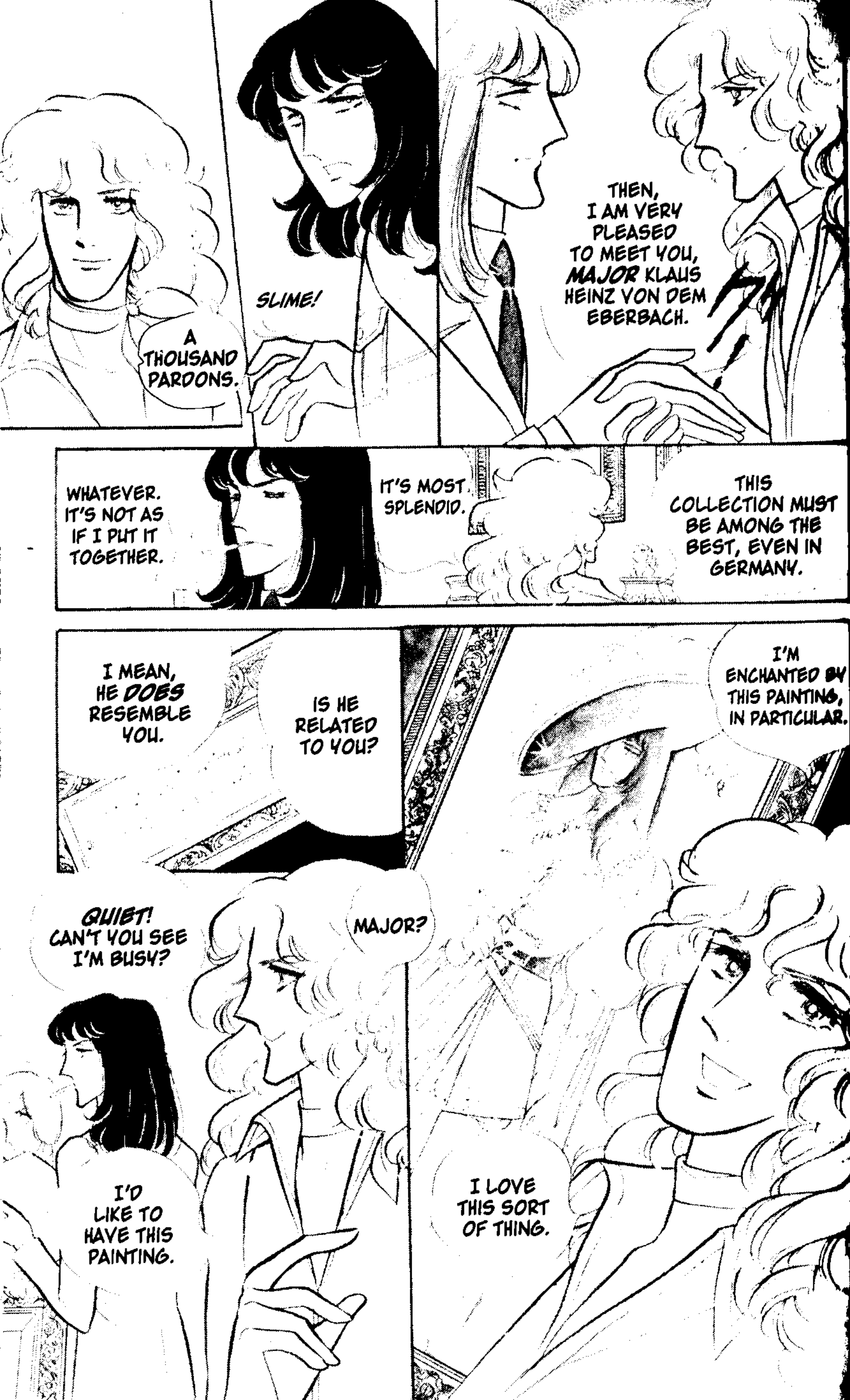

カッ
カッ
カッ
HERR A, CONTACT LONDON UNIVERSITY.
YES SIR.
I WANT THIS CAESAR GABRIEL TO APPRAISE THE ARTWORKS OF THE EBERBACH COLLECTION.
BUT THE MAJOR'S MASTERPIECES HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPRAISED.
IT'S FOR INTEL PURPOSES.
HERR B, GET A CAR READY.
YES SIR.
ブォォ
MAJOR EBERBACH, I NEED YOU TO GO TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY AND LOOK UP A CERTAIN MAN.

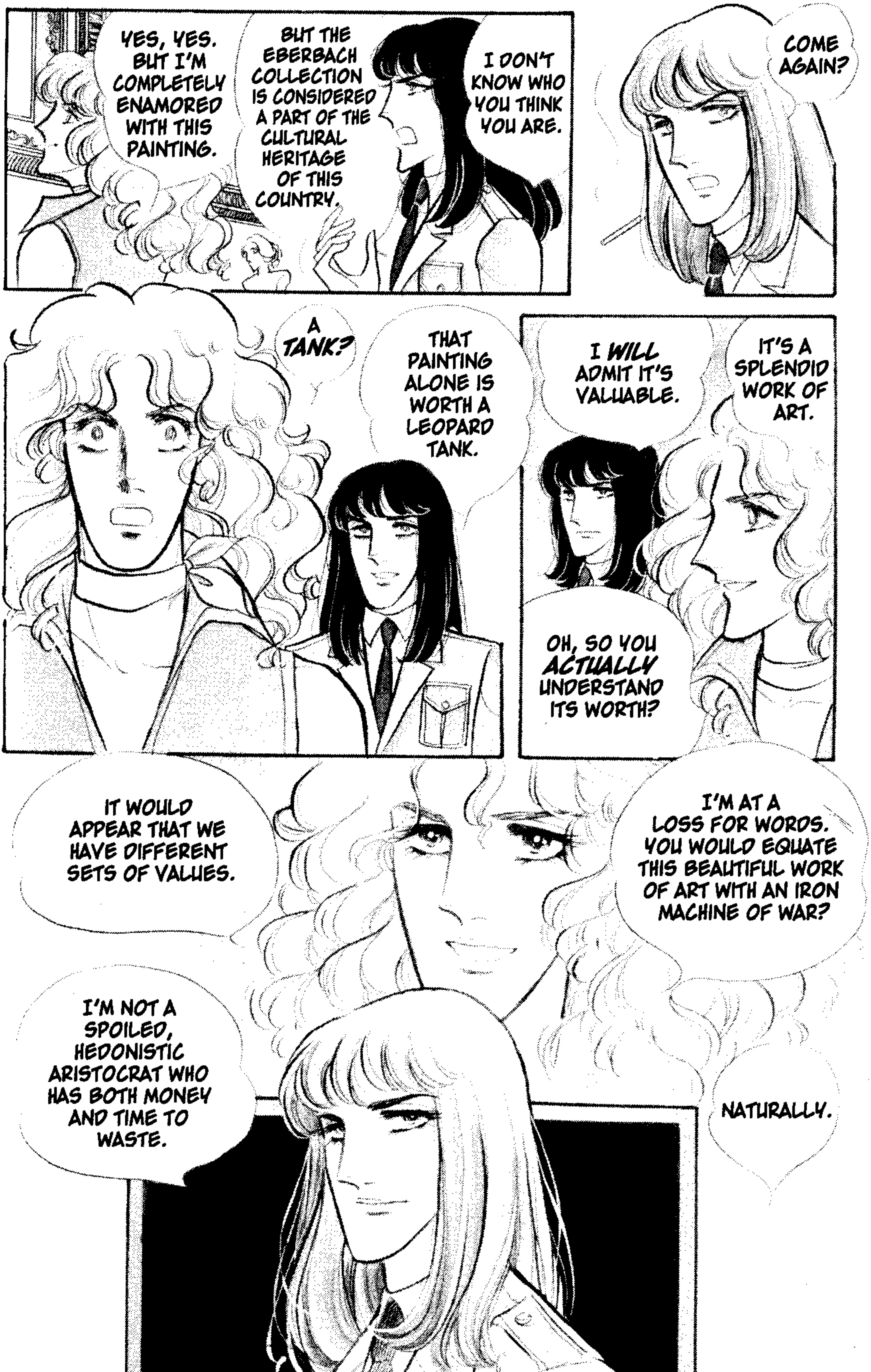

OUR INTELLIGENCE MAN IN ENGLAND, JOHN DRAKE, TELLS US THAT THERE IS A MAN WHO SEEMS TO HAVE, SHALL WE SAY, TELEPATHIC POWERS.
CAESAR GABRIEL. AGE: 18.
Instructor at London University
Fluent in 20 languages
A-1 art appraisal skills
SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT HIM. AND IF INDEED HE IS "TELEPATH AND SEEMS DANGEROUS, TAK WHATEVER MEASURES ARE NECESSARY...
THIS SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MAN? AND WHY ME? ANY PRIVATE COUL DEAL WITH THI ONE.
STILL, ORDERS ARE ORDERS.
SCREEEEC
WHAT IS IT?
SORRY, MAJOR.
THAT SPORTS CAR CUT US OFF.
Hey!!

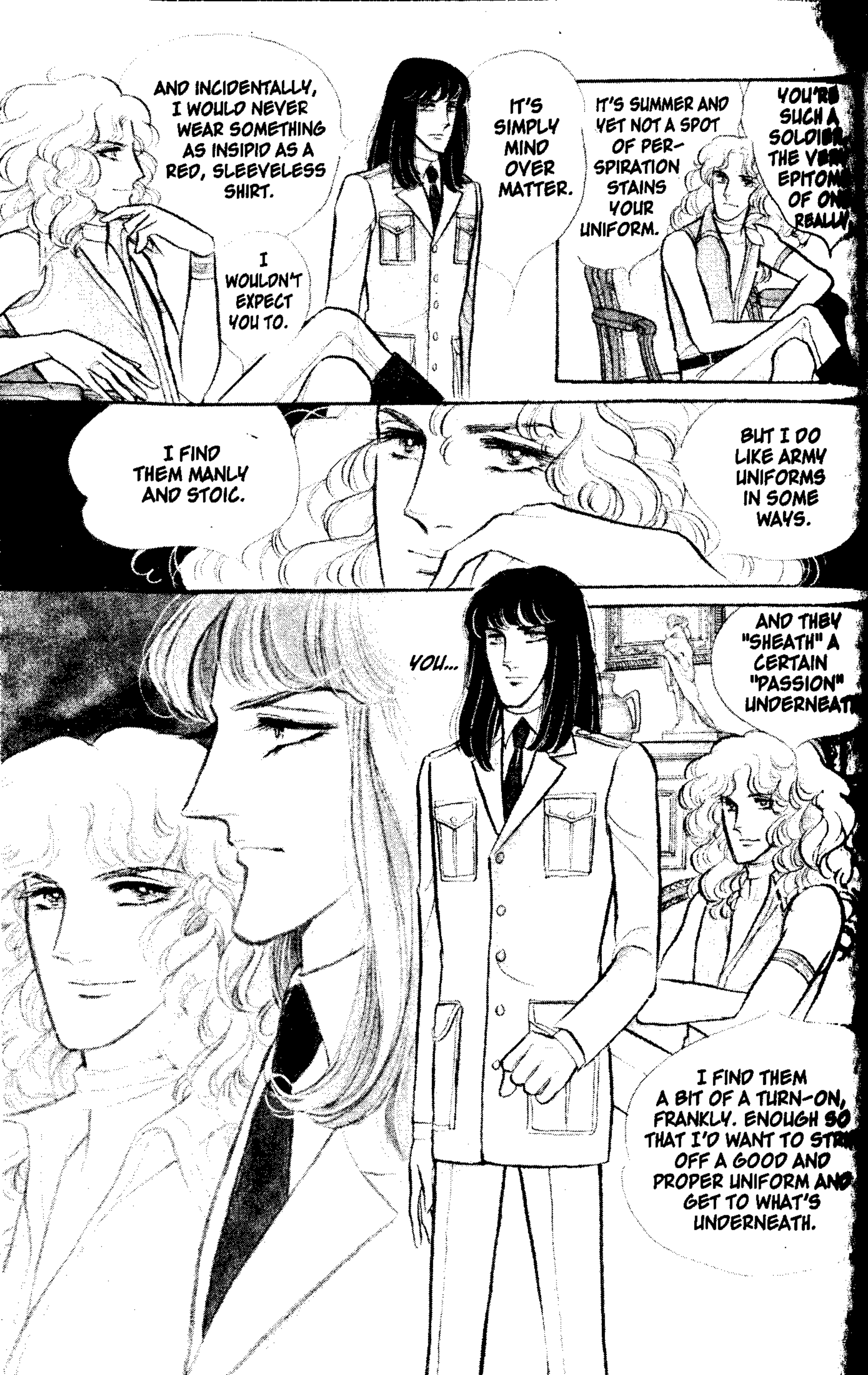

WHAT A FLASHY CAR, THOUGH.
IT'S A LAMBORGHINI.
OH. THAT CAR IS ALL THE RAGE RIGHT NOW.
I LOATHE PEOPLE WHO OWN THEM.
NOTHING BUT SHALLOW, EGOTISTICAL BASTARDS.
MAJOR, THAT'S THE SAME LAMBORGHINI.
SPLENDID TIMING, MASTER.
GUESTS?
AN ENGLISHMAN DESIRED TO VIEW THE EBERBACH COLLECTION.
HERR B, COME WITH ME.
YES SIR.

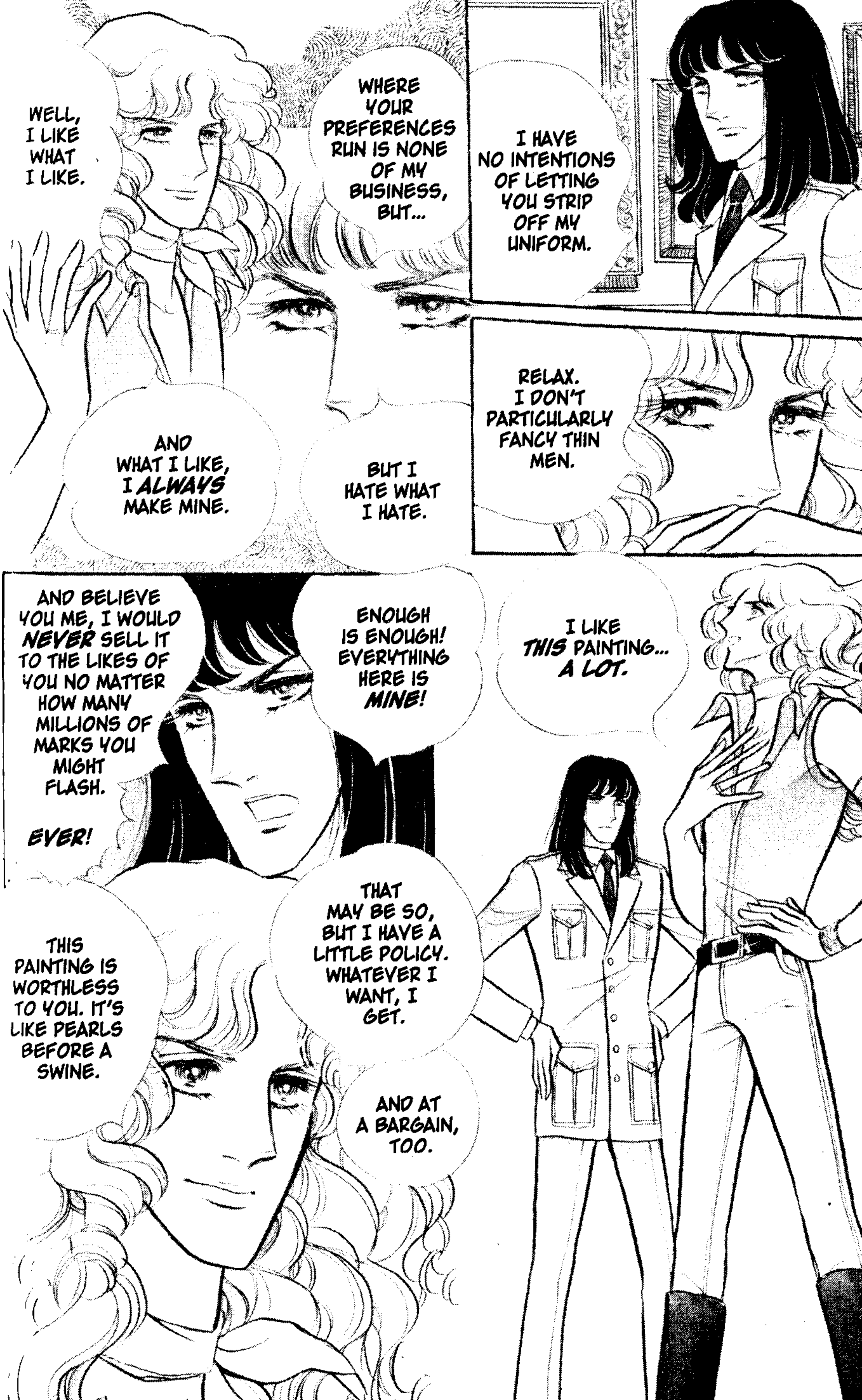

HERR B, GATHER THE ART ON THIS LIST.
I'M TAKING THEM TO THE EMBASSY IN LONDON.
YES SIR.
THAT FIGURES. HE'S CLEARLY THE SORT OF DEGENERATE TH WOULD DRIVE SUCH A CAR.
I DIDN'T SEE YOU COME IN. I WAS MUCH TOO TAKEN IN BY THIS PAINTING.
HOW DREADFULLY SORRY I AM.

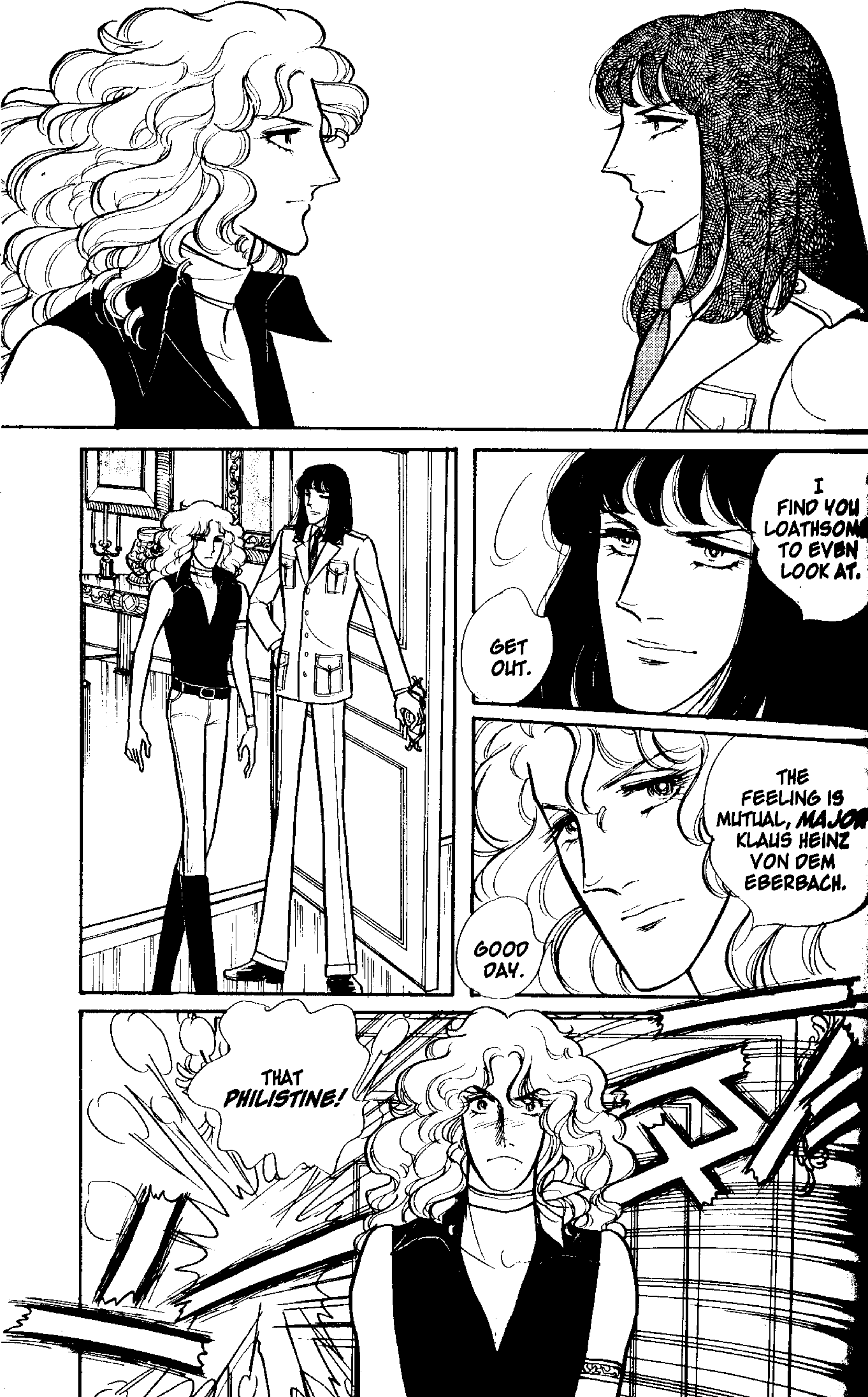

BY THE WAY, I'M EARL DORIAN RED GLORIA.
KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH. I AM THE HEAD OF A FAMILY RELATED TO THE GERMAN BRANCH OF THE HAPSBURGS.
SO, HE REFUSES TO SHAKE MY HAND.
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.
I AM SO PLEASED TO MEET YOU, KLAUS HEINZ...
THAT'S "MAJOR" TO YOU.

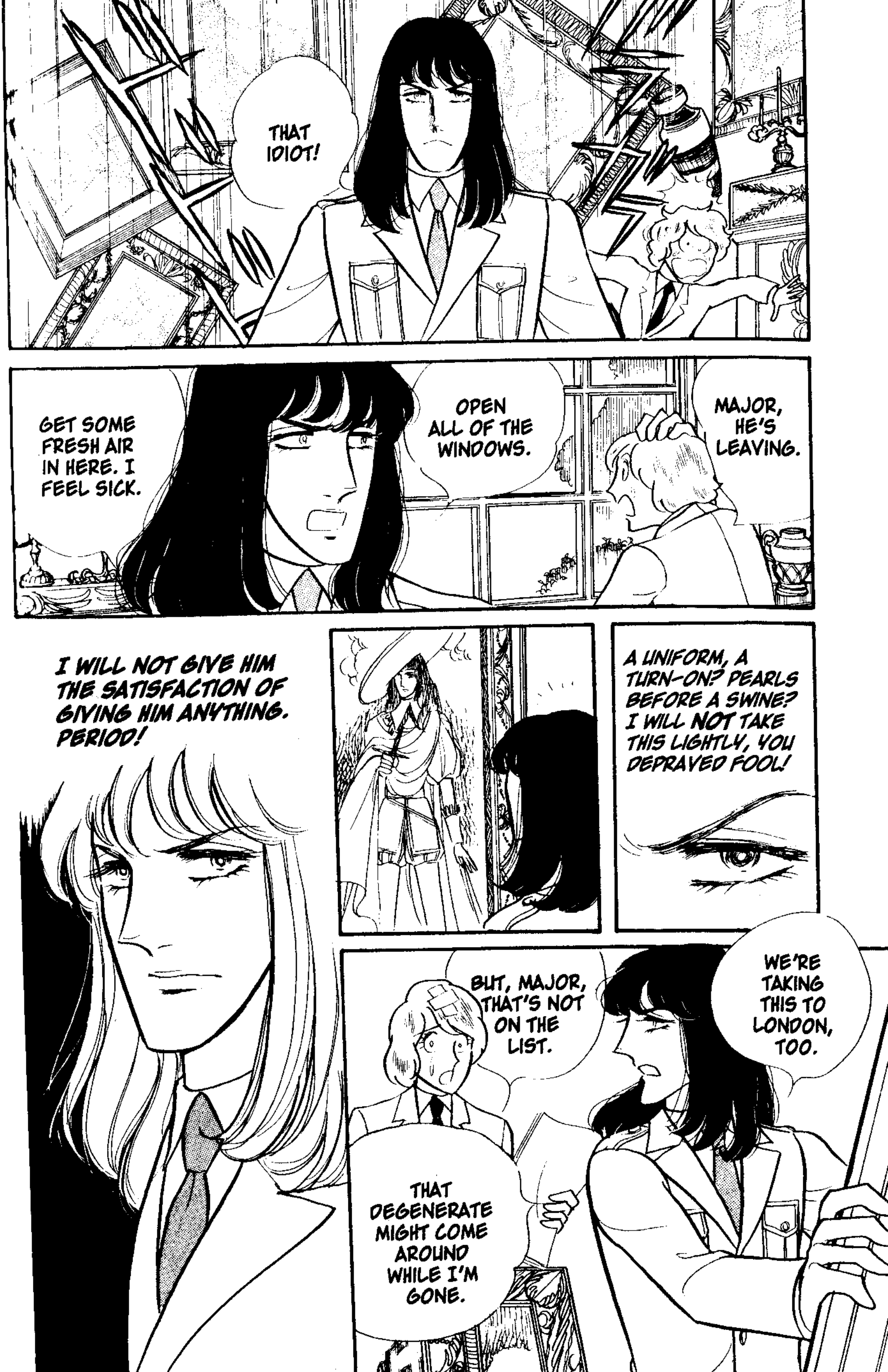

THEN, I AM VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU, ***MAJOR*** KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH.
SLIME!
A THOUSAND PARDONS.
THIS COLLECTION MUST BE AMONG THE BEST, EVEN IN GERMANY.
IT'S MOST SPLENDID.
WHATEVER. IT'S NOT AS IF I PUT IT TOGETHER.
I'M ENCHANTED BY THIS PAINTING, IN PARTICULAR.
IS HE RELATED TO YOU?
I MEAN, HE ***DOES*** RESEMBLE YOU.
I LOVE THIS SORT OF THING.
MAJOR?
QUIET! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
I'D LIKE TO HAVE THIS PAINTING.

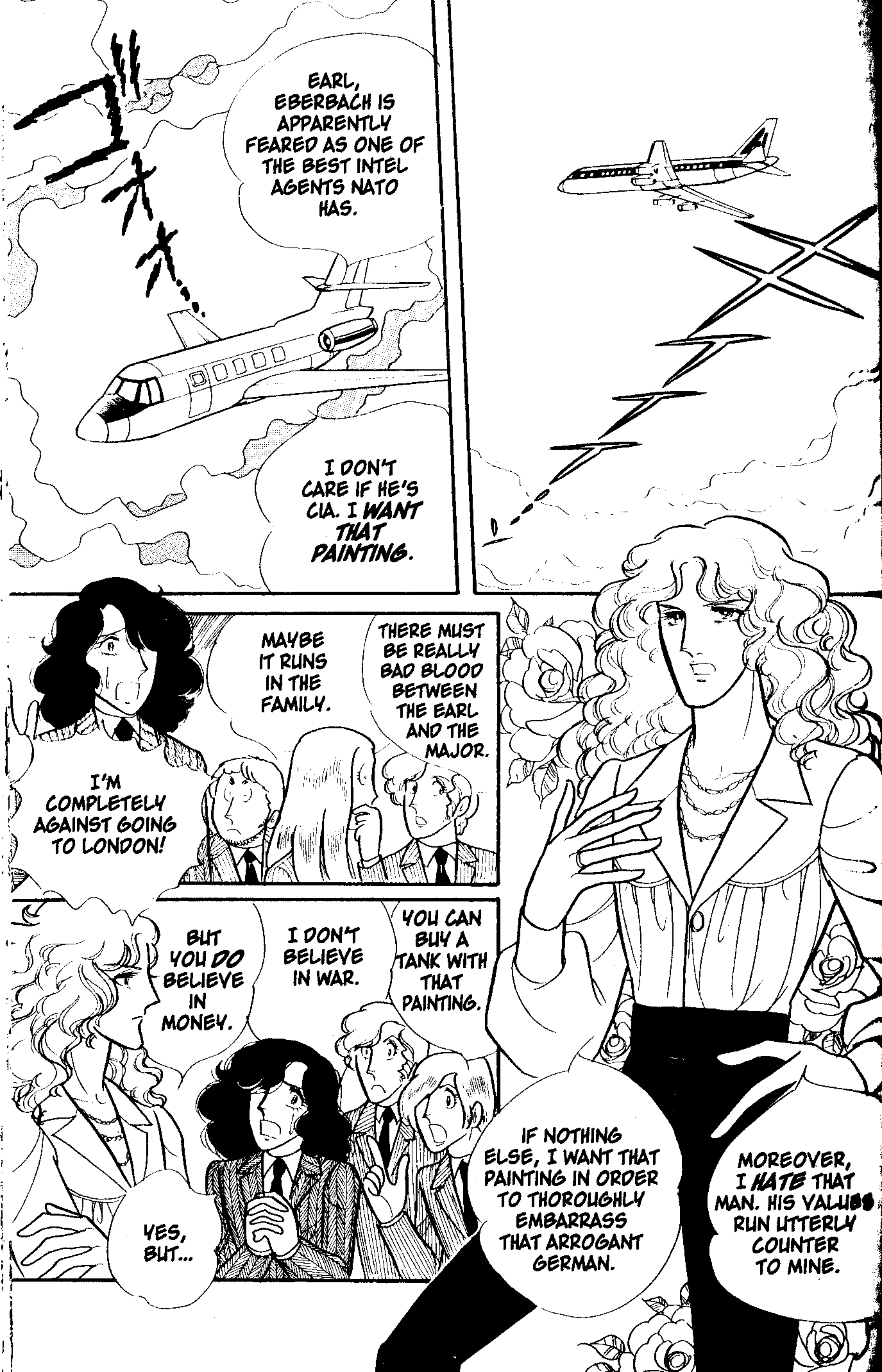

COME AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE.
BUT THE EBERBACH COLLECTION IS CONSIDERED A PART OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THIS COUNTRY.
YES, YES. BUT I'M COMPLETELY ENAMORED WITH THIS PAINTING.
IT'S A SPLENDID WORK OF ART.
I *WILL* ADMIT IT'S VALUABLE.
OH, SO YOU *ACTUALLY* UNDERSTAND ITS WORTH?
THAT PAINTING ALONE IS WORTH A LEOPARD TANK.
A *TANK?*
I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. YOU WOULD EQUATE THIS BEAUTIFUL WORK OF ART WITH AN IRON MACHINE OF WAR?
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE HAVE DIFFERENT SETS OF VALUES.
NATURALLY.
I'M NOT A SPOILED, HEDONISTIC ARISTOCRAT WHO HAS BOTH MONEY AND TIME TO WASTE.

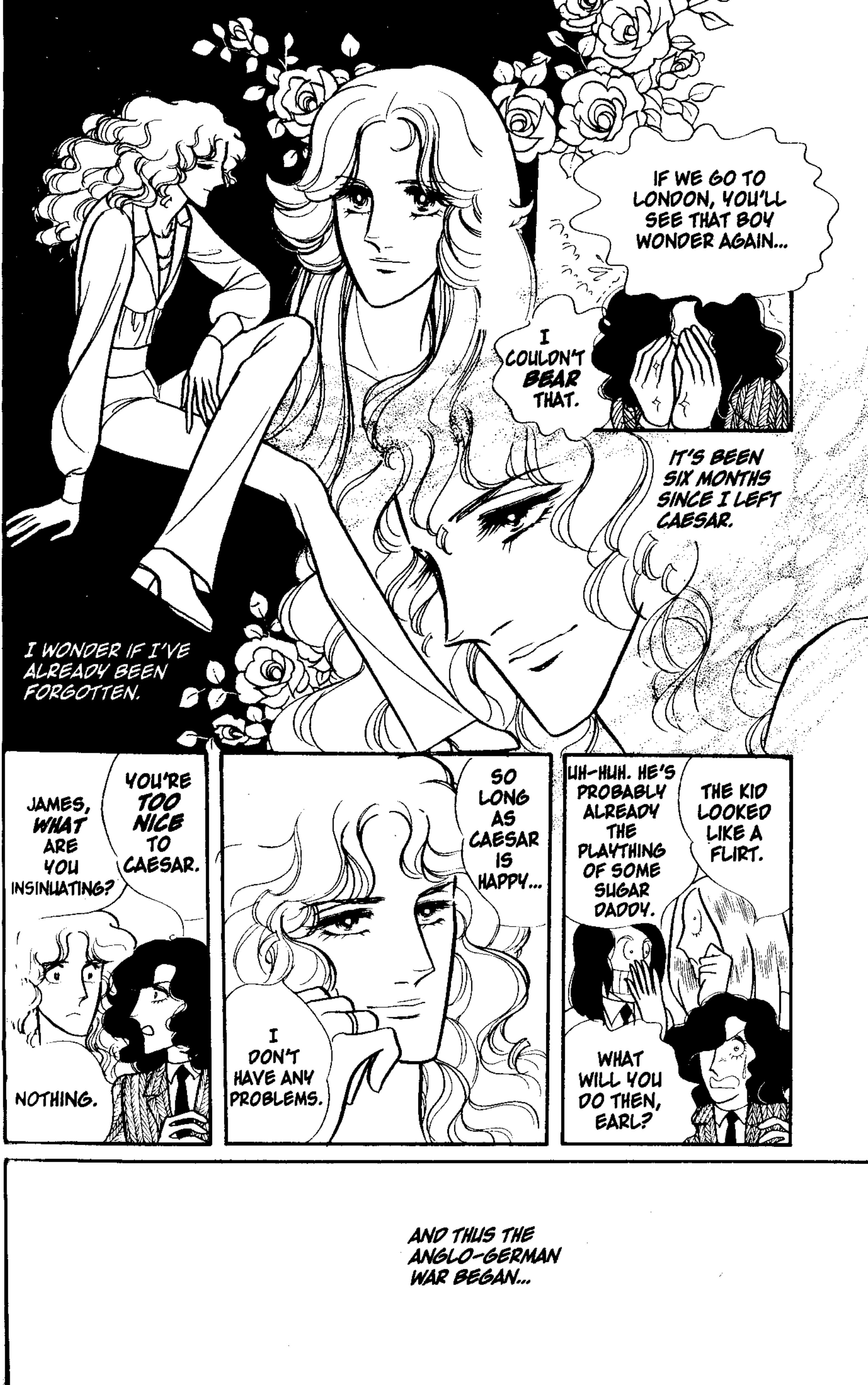

YOU'RE SUCH A SOLDIER, THE VERY EPITOME OF ONE REALLY
IT'S SUMMER AND YET NOT A SPOT OF PERSPIRATION STAINS YOUR UNIFORM.
IT'S SIMPLY MIND OVER MATTER.
AND INCIDENTALLY, I WOULD NEVER WEAR SOMETHING AS INSIPID AS A RED, SLEEVELESS SHIRT.
I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO.
BUT I DO LIKE ARMY UNIFORMS IN SOME WAYS.
I FIND THEM MANLY AND STOIC.
AND THEY "SHEATH" A CERTAIN "PASSION" UNDERNEATH.
YOU...
I FIND THEM A BIT OF A TURN-ON, FRANKLY. ENOUGH SO THAT I'D WANT TO STRIP OFF A GOOD AND PROPER UNIFORM AND GET TO WHAT'S UNDERNEATH.

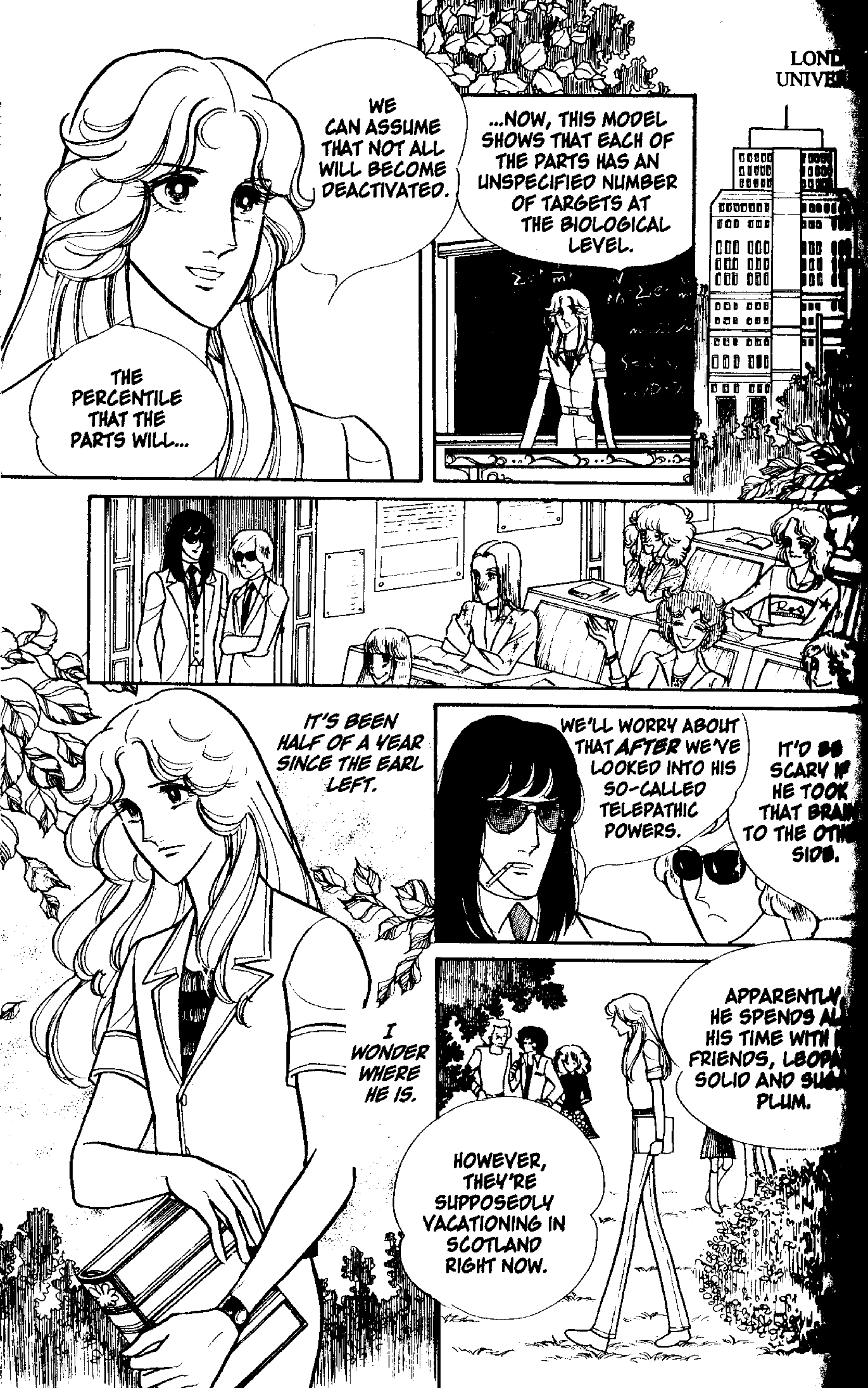

I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF LETTING YOU STRIP OFF MY UNIFORM.
RELAX. I DON'T PARTICULARLY FANCY THIN MEN.
WHERE YOUR PREFERENCES RUN IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
BUT I HATE WHAT I HATE.
WELL, I LIKE WHAT I LIKE.
AND WHAT I LIKE, I *ALWAYS* MAKE MINE.
I LIKE *THIS* PAINTING... *A LOT.*
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! EVERYTHING HERE IS *MINE!*
AND BELIEVE YOU ME, I WOULD *NEVER* SELL IT TO THE LIKES OF YOU NO MATTER HOW MANY MILLIONS OF MARKS YOU MIGHT FLASH.
EVER!
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT I HAVE A LITTLE POLICY. WHATEVER I WANT, I GET.
AND AT A BARGAIN, TOO.
THIS PAINTING IS WORTHLESS TO YOU. IT'S LIKE PEARLS BEFORE A SWINE.

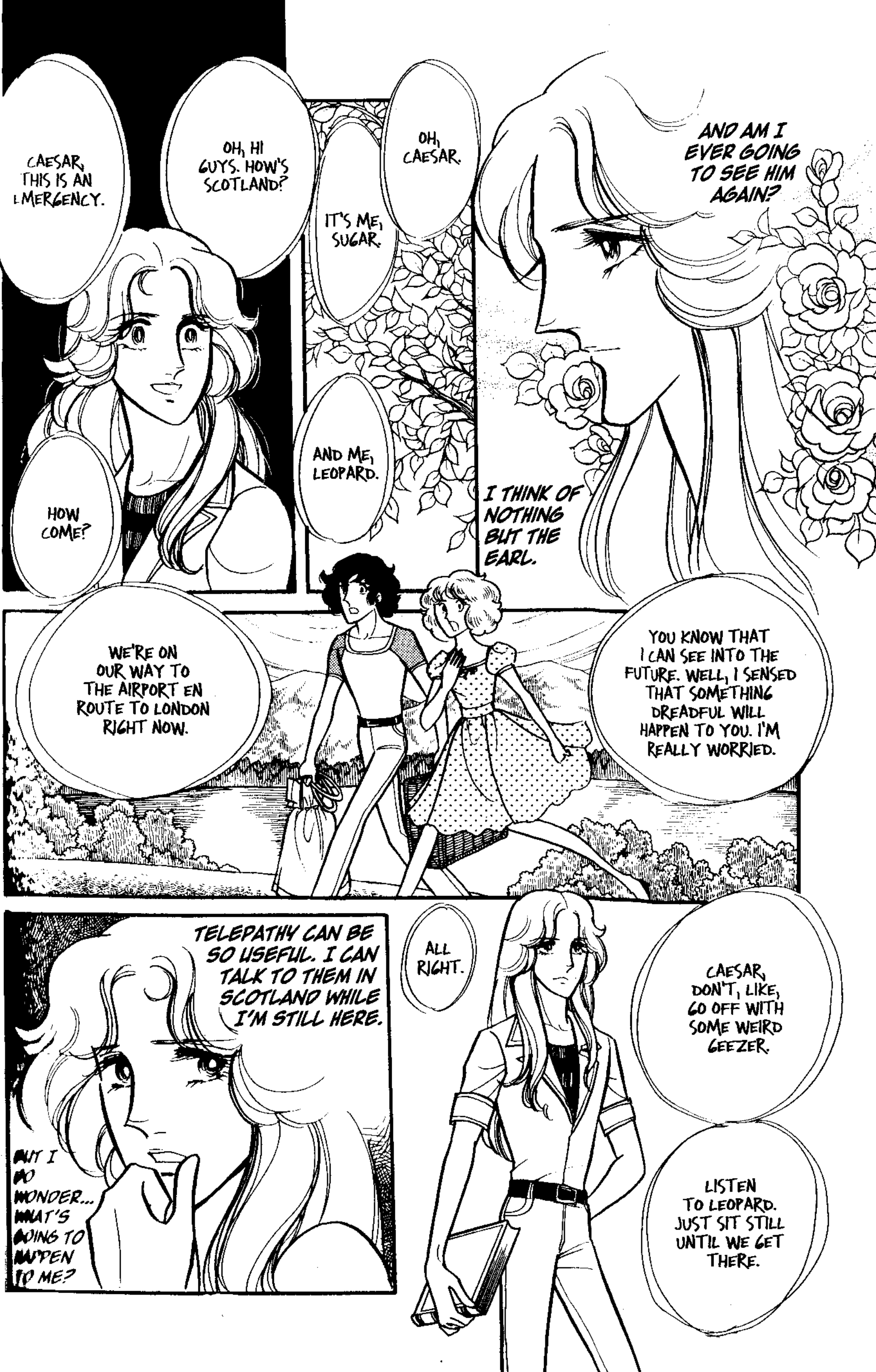

I FIND YOU LOATHSOM TO EVEN LOOK AT.
GET OUT.
THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, ***MAJO*** KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH.
GOOD DAY.
THAT ***PHILISTINE!***

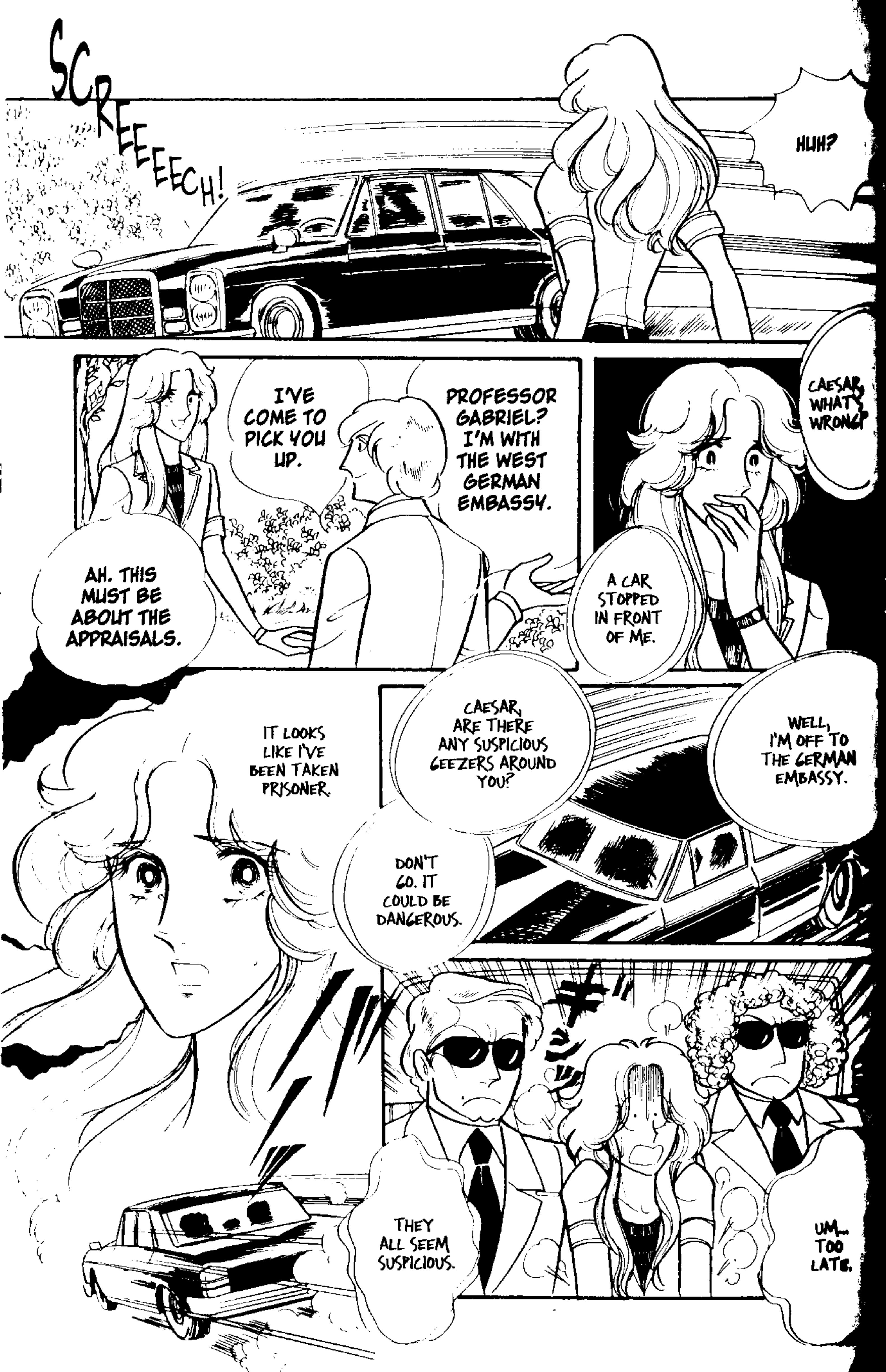

THAT IDIOT!
MAJOR, HE'S LEAVING.
OPEN ALL OF THE WINDOWS.
GET SOME FRESH AIR IN HERE. I FEEL SICK.
A UNIFORM, A TURN-ON? PEARLS BEFORE A SWINE? I WILL NOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, YOU DEPRAVED FOOL!
I WILL NOT GIVE HIM THE SATISFACTION OF GIVING HIM ANYTHING. PERIOD!
WE'RE TAKING THIS TO LONDON, TOO.
BUT, MAJOR, THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST.
THAT DEGENERATE MIGHT COME AROUND WHILE I'M GONE.

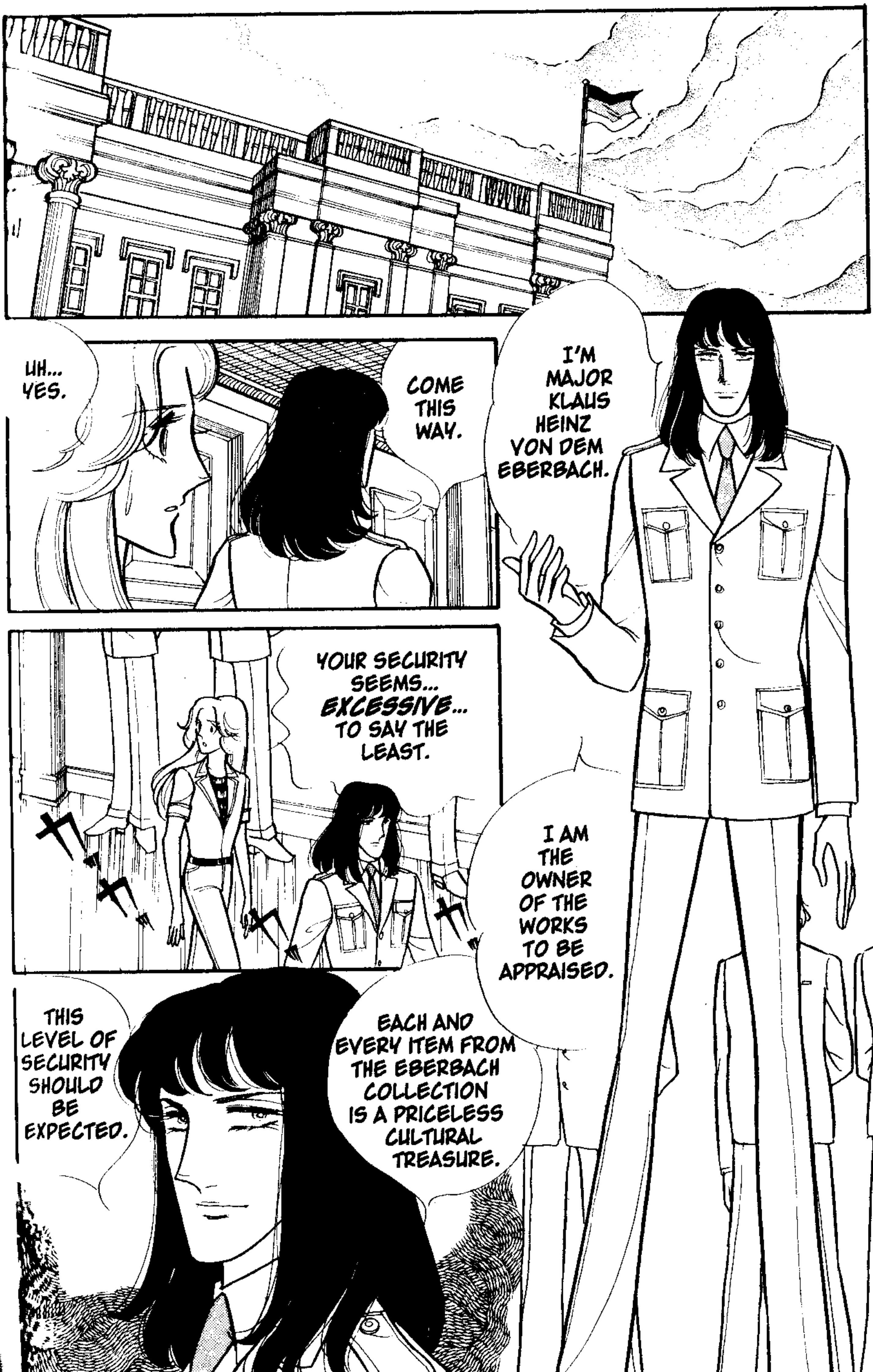

ゴォォ…
EARL, EBERBACH IS APPARENTLY FEARED AS ONE OF THE BEST INTEL AGENTS NATO HAS.
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S CIA. I *WANT THAT PAINTING*.
THERE MUST BE REALLY BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE EARL AND THE MAJOR.
MAYBE IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY.
I'M COMPLETELY AGAINST GOING TO LONDON!
YOU CAN BUY A TANK WITH THAT PAINTING.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN WAR.
BUT YOU *DO* BELIEVE IN MONEY.
YES, BUT...
IF NOTHING ELSE, I WANT THAT PAINTING IN ORDER TO THOROUGHLY EMBARRASS THAT ARROGANT GERMAN.
MOREOVER, I *HATE* THAT MAN. HIS VALUES RUN UTTERLY COUNTER TO MINE.

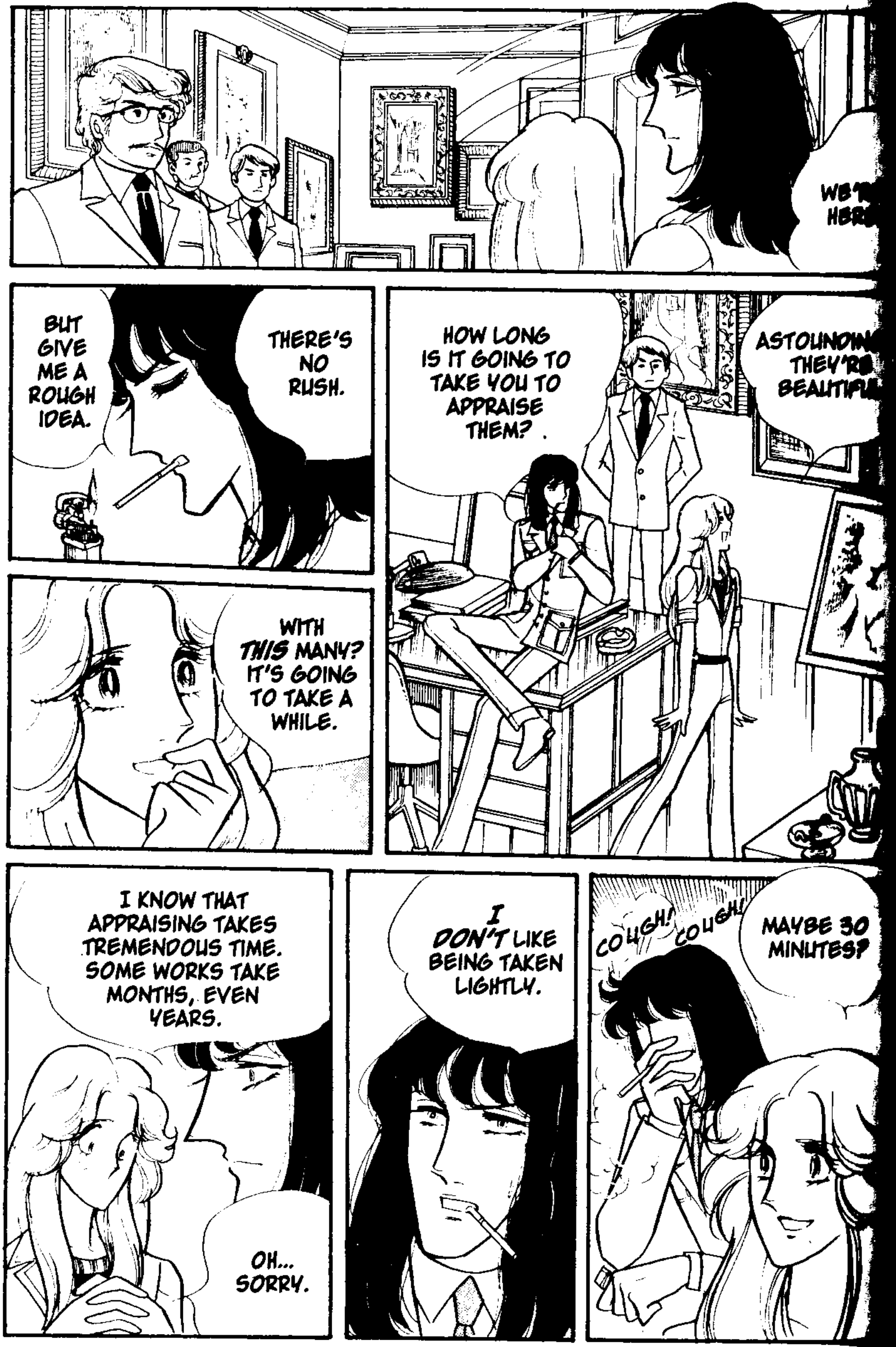

IF WE GO TO LONDON, YOU'LL SEE THAT BOY WONDER AGAIN...
I COULDN'T BEAR THAT.
IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE I LEFT CAESAR.
I WONDER IF I'VE ALREADY BEEN FORGOTTEN.
THE KID LOOKED LIKE A FLIRT.
UH-HUH. HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY THE PLAYTHING OF SOME SUGAR DADDY.
WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN, EARL?
SO LONG AS CAESAR IS HAPPY...
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.
YOU'RE TOO NICE TO CAESAR.
JAMES, WHAT ARE YOU INSINUATING?
NOTHING.
AND THUS THE ANGLO-GERMAN WAR BEGAN...

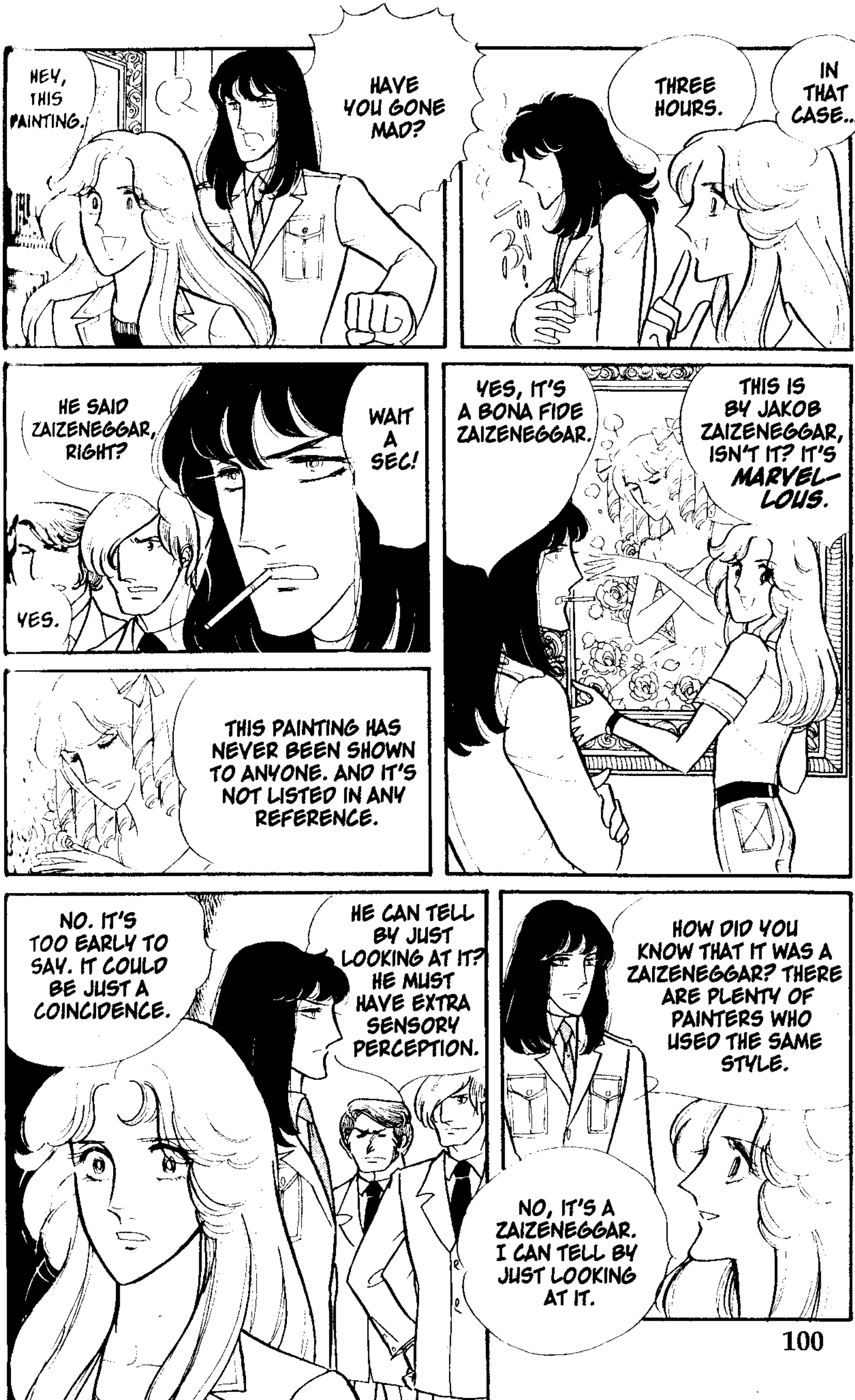

LOND
UNIVE
...NOW, THIS MODEL SHOWS THAT EACH OF THE PARTS HAS AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF TARGETS AT THE BIOLOGICAL LEVEL.
WE CAN ASSUME THAT NOT ALL WILL BECOME DEACTIVATED.
THE PERCENTILE THAT THE PARTS WILL...
IT'D BE SCARY IF HE TOOK THAT BRAI TO THE OTH SIDE.
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT AFTER WE'VE LOOKED INTO HIS SO-CALLED TELEPATHIC POWERS.
IT'S BEEN HALF OF A YEAR SINCE THE EARL LEFT.
APPARENTLY HE SPENDS AL HIS TIME WITH FRIENDS, LEOPA SOLIO AND SU PLUM.
HOWEVER, THEY'RE SUPPOSEDLY VACATIONING IN SCOTLAND RIGHT NOW.
I WONDER WHERE HE IS.

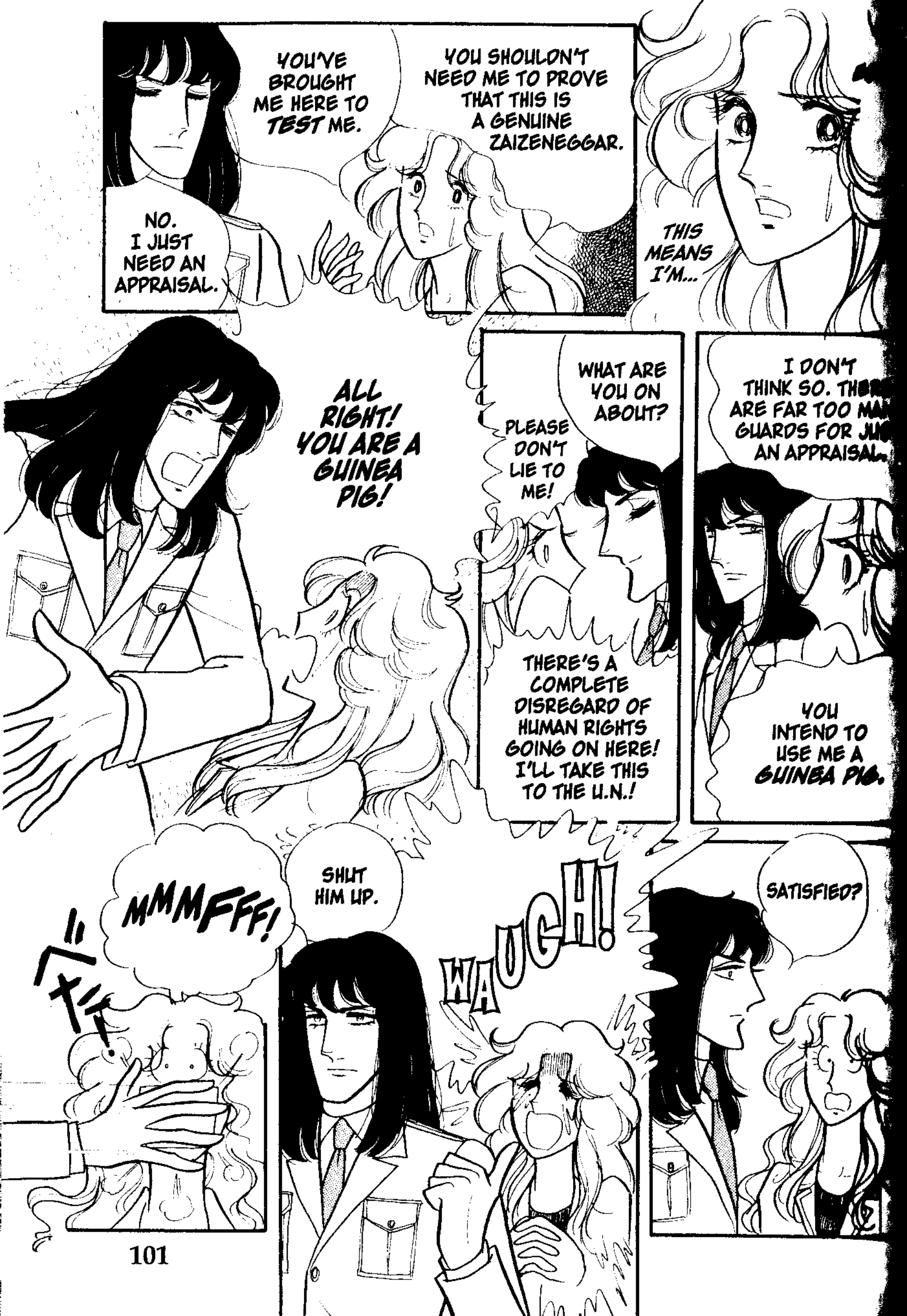

AND AM I EVER GOING TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
I THINK OF NOTHING BUT THE EARL.
OH, CAESAR.
IT'S ME, SUGAR.
AND ME, LEOPARD.
OH, HI GUYS. HOW'S SCOTLAND?
CAESAR, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.
HOW COME?
YOU KNOW THAT I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE. WELL, I SENSED THAT SOMETHING DREADFUL WILL HAPPEN TO YOU. I'M REALLY WORRIED.
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE AIRPORT EN ROUTE TO LONDON RIGHT NOW.
CAESAR, DON'T, LIKE, GO OFF WITH SOME WEIRD GEEZER.
LISTEN TO LEOPARD. JUST SIT STILL UNTIL WE GET THERE.
ALL RIGHT.
TELEPATHY CAN BE SO USEFUL. I CAN TALK TO THEM IN SCOTLAND WHILE I'M STILL HERE.
BUT I DO WONDER... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?

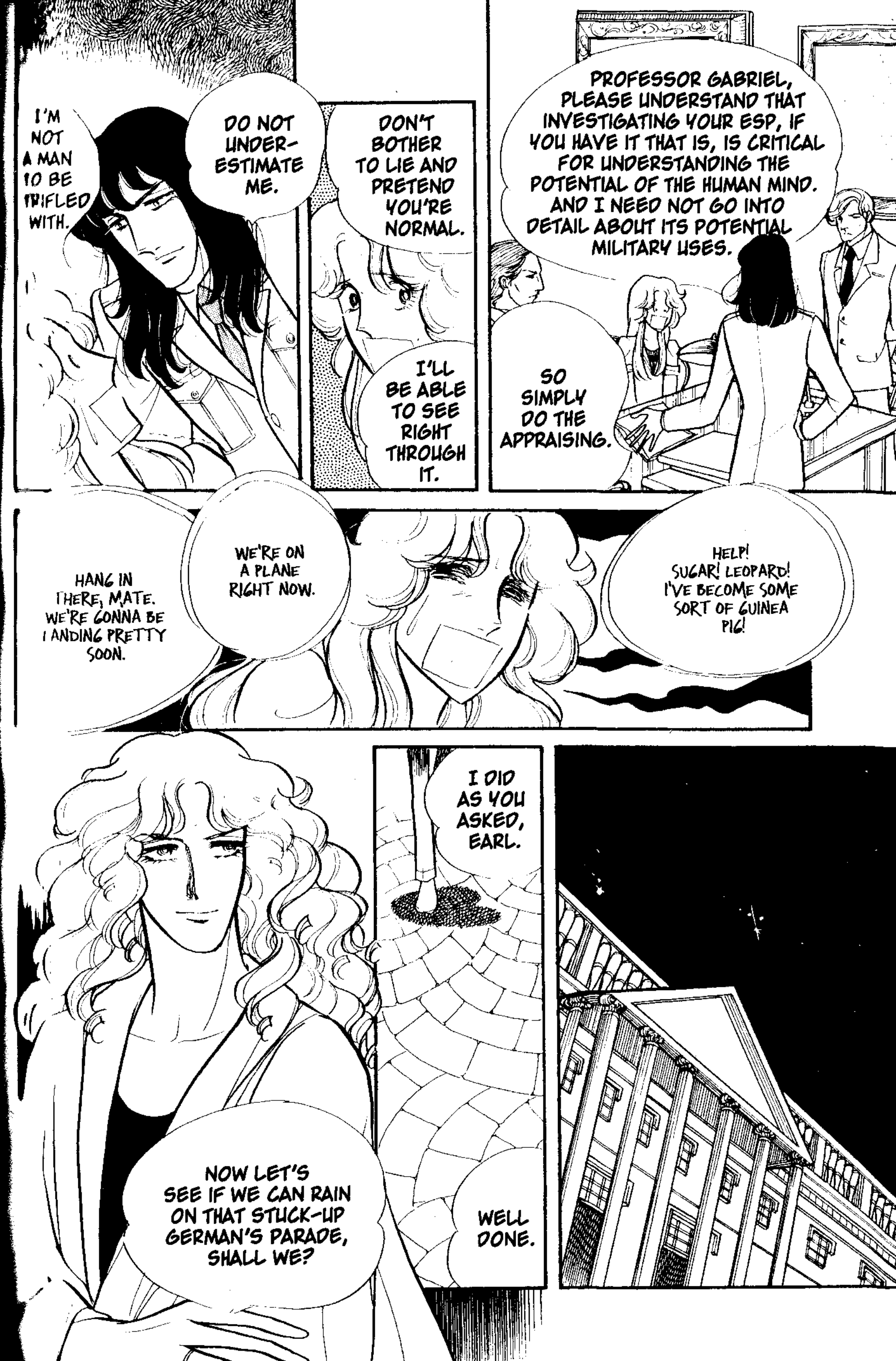

SCREEEEECH!
HUH?
CAESAR, WHAT'S WRONG?
A CAR STOPPED IN FRONT OF ME.
PROFESSOR GABRIEL? I'M WITH THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY.
I'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
AH. THIS MUST BE ABOUT THE APPRAISALS.
WELL, I'M OFF TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY.
CAESAR, ARE THERE ANY SUSPICIOUS GEEZERS AROUND YOU?
UM... TOO LATE.
THEY ALL SEEM SUSPICIOUS.
DON'T GO. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER.

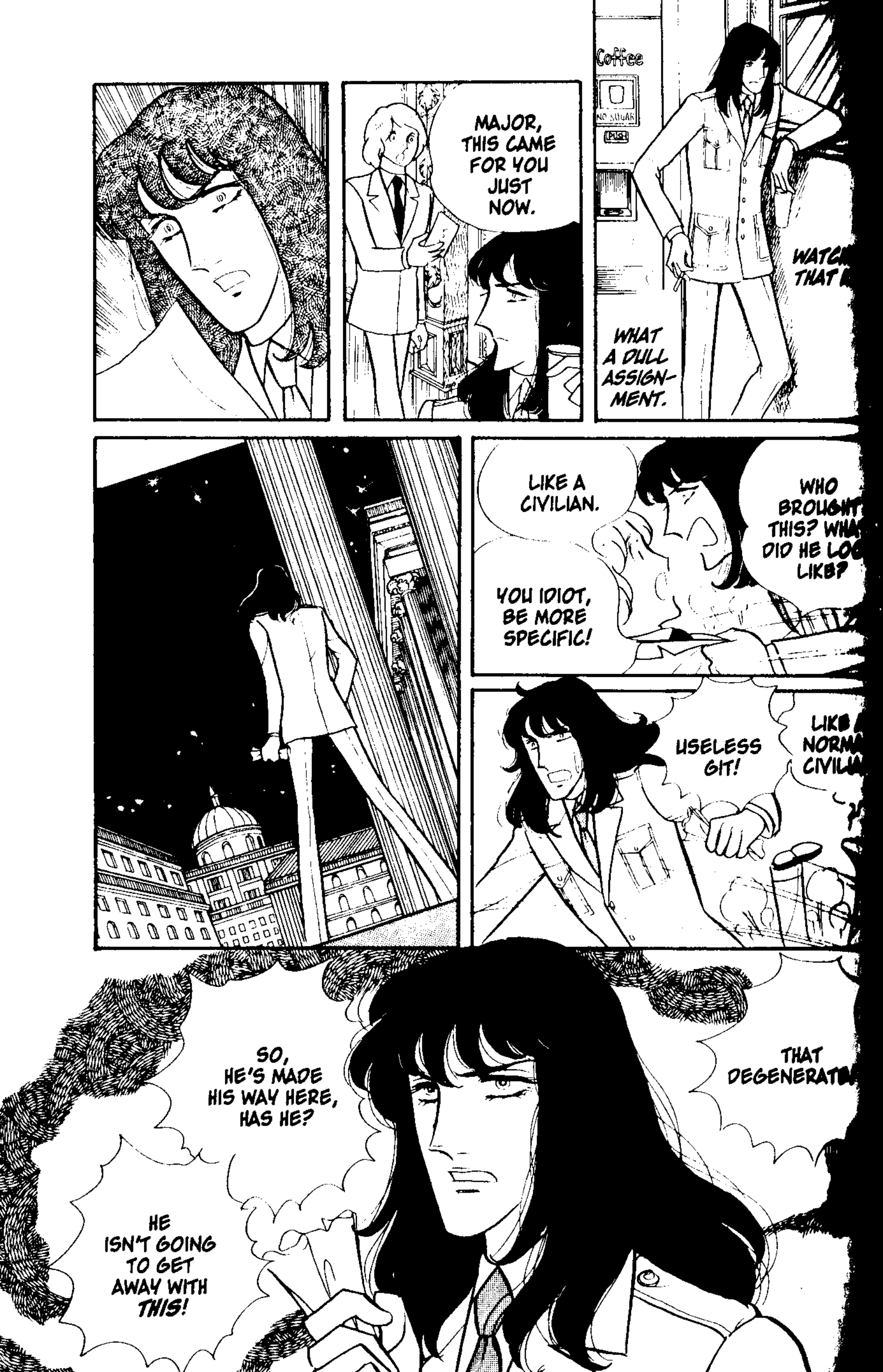

COME THIS WAY.
UH... YES.
YOUR SECURITY SEEMS... *EXCESSIVE*... TO SAY THE LEAST.
THIS LEVEL OF SECURITY SHOULD BE EXPECTED.
EACH AND EVERY ITEM FROM THE EBERBACH COLLECTION IS A PRICELESS CULTURAL TREASURE.
I'M MAJOR KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH.
I AM THE OWNER OF THE WORKS TO BE APPRAISED.

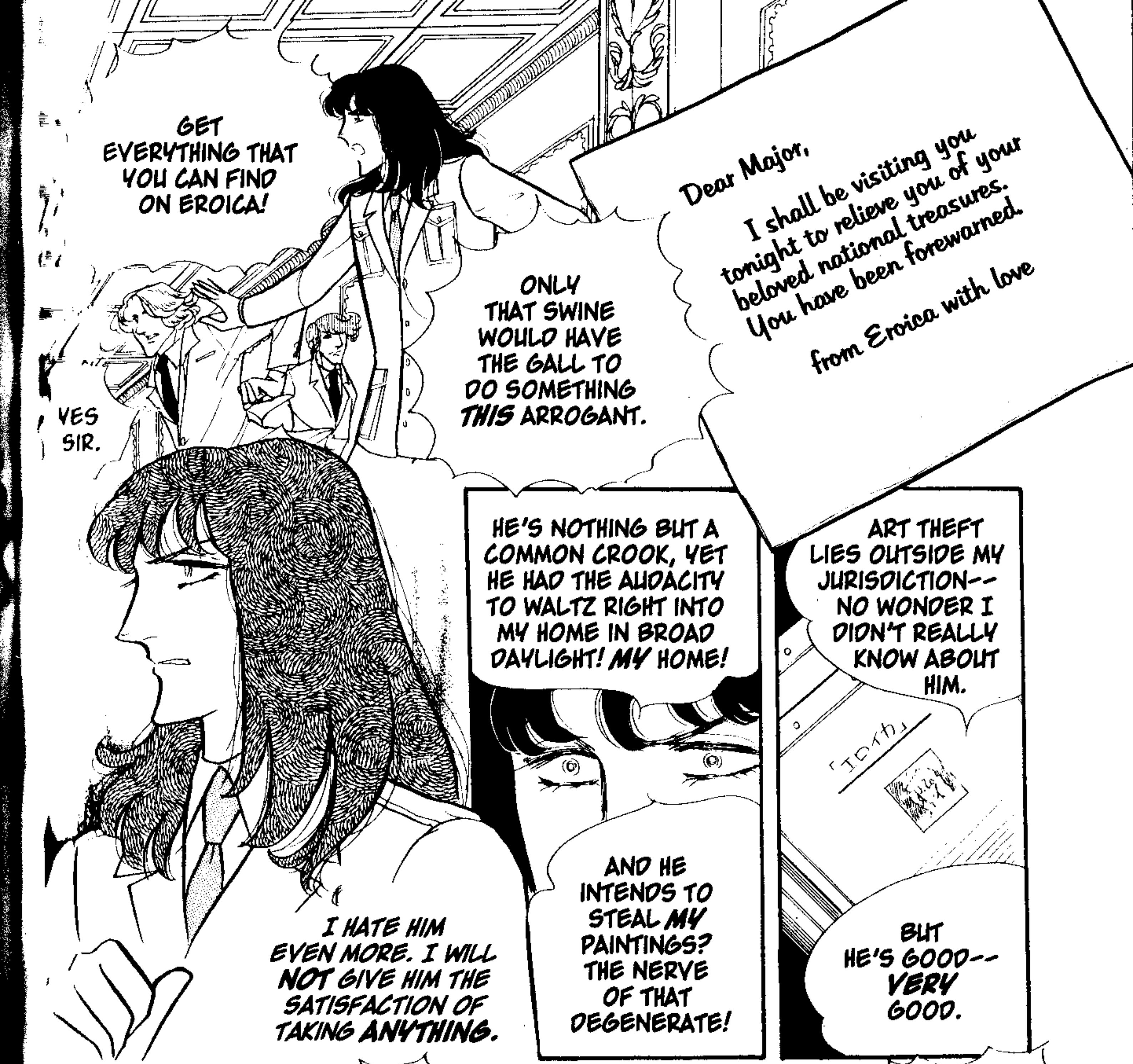

WE'R
HER
ASTOUNDIN
THEY'RE
BEAUTIFU
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE YOU TO APPRAISE THEM?
THERE'S NO RUSH.
BUT GIVE ME A ROUGH IDEA.
WITH *THIS* MANY? IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
COUGH! COUGH!
MAYBE 30 MINUTES?
I DON'T LIKE BEING TAKEN LIGHTLY.
I KNOW THAT APPRAISING TAKES TREMENDOUS TIME. SOME WORKS TAKE MONTHS, EVEN YEARS.
OH... SORRY.

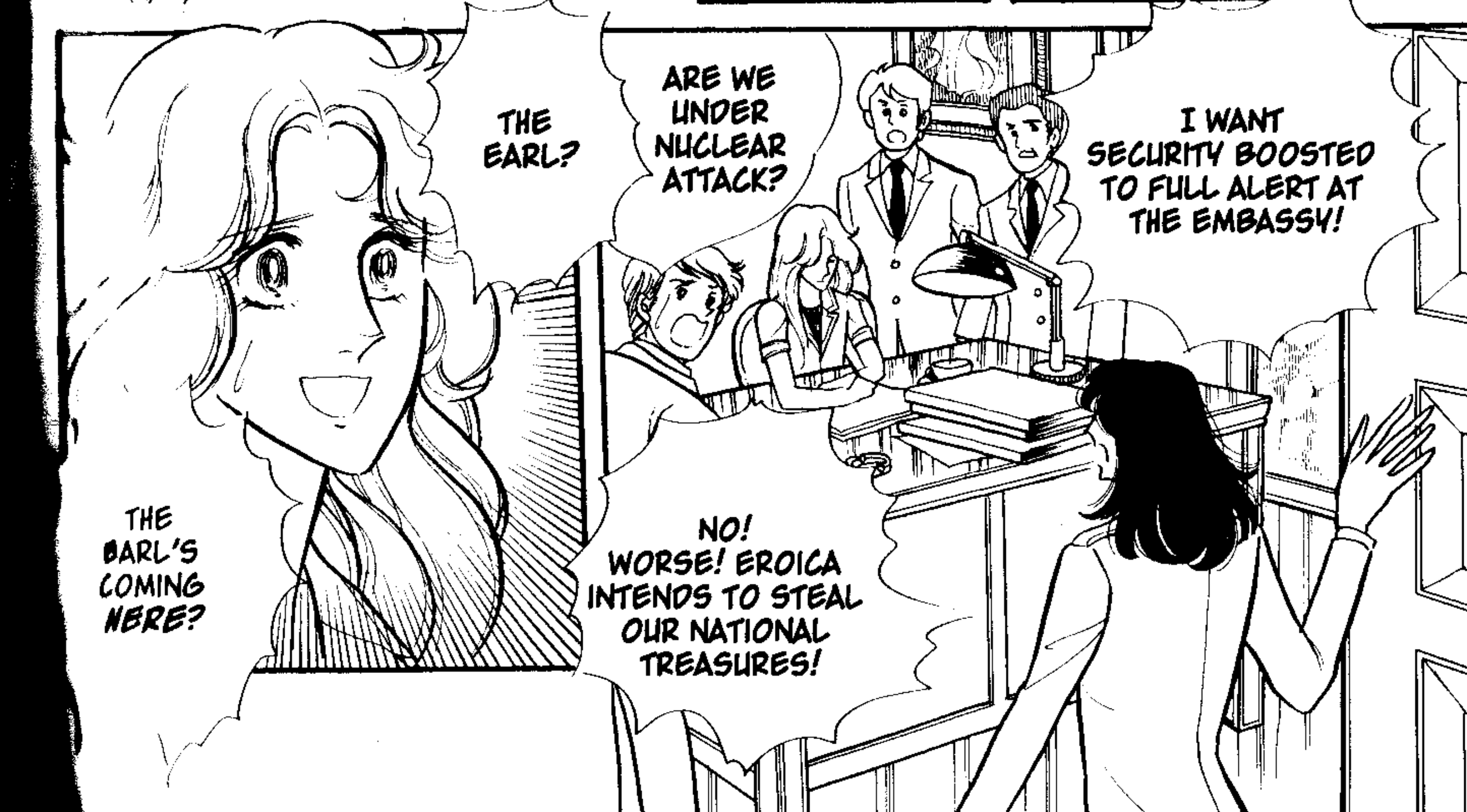

IN THAT CASE...
THREE HOURS.
HAVE YOU GONE MAD?
HEY, THIS PAINTING.
THIS IS BY JAKOB ZAIZENEGGAR, ISN'T IT? IT'S MARVELLOUS.
YES, IT'S A BONA FIDE ZAIZENEGGAR.
WAIT A SEC!
HE SAID ZAIZENEGGAR, RIGHT?
YES.
THIS PAINTING HAS NEVER BEEN SHOWN TO ANYONE. AND IT'S NOT LISTED IN ANY REFERENCE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS A ZAIZENEGGAR? THERE ARE PLENTY OF PAINTERS WHO USED THE SAME STYLE.
NO, IT'S A ZAIZENEGGAR. I CAN TELL BY JUST LOOKING AT IT.
HE CAN TELL BY JUST LOOKING AT IT? HE MUST HAVE EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION.
NO. IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY. IT COULD BE JUST A COINCIDENCE.

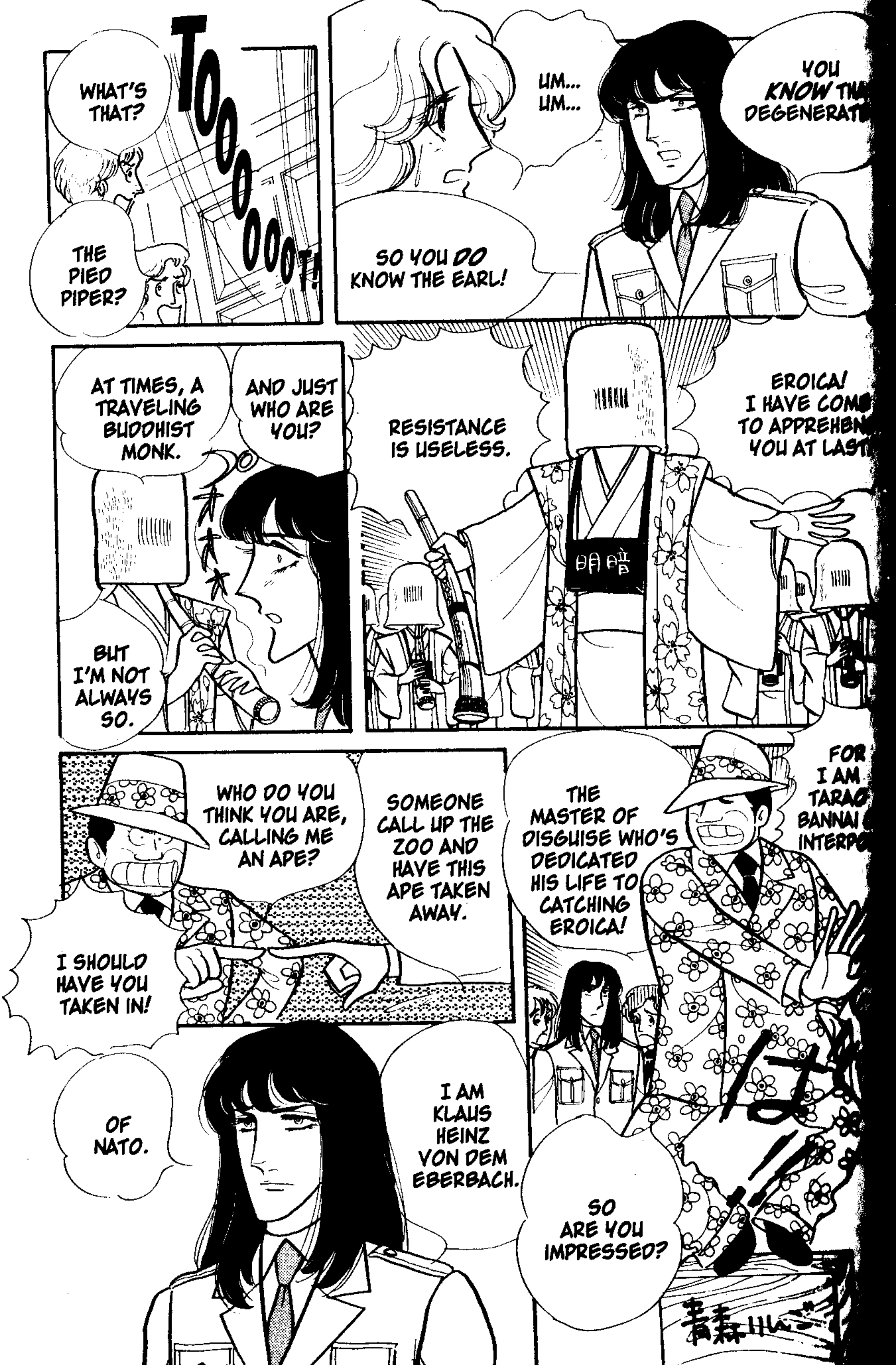

THIS MEANS I'M...
YOU SHOULDN'T NEED ME TO PROVE THAT THIS IS A GENUINE ZAIZENEGGAR.
YOU'VE BROUGHT ME HERE TO *TEST* ME.
NO. I JUST NEED AN APPRAISAL.
I DON'T THINK SO. THE ARE FAR TOO MA GUARDS FOR JU AN APPRAISAL.
YOU INTEND TO USE ME A *GUINEA PIG*.
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
PLEASE DON'T LIE TO ME!
THERE'S A COMPLETE DISREGARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS GOING ON HERE! I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE U.N.!
ALL RIGHT! YOU ARE A GUINEA PIG!
SATISFIED?
WAUGH!
SHUT HIM UP.
MMMFFF!
ベナイ!!

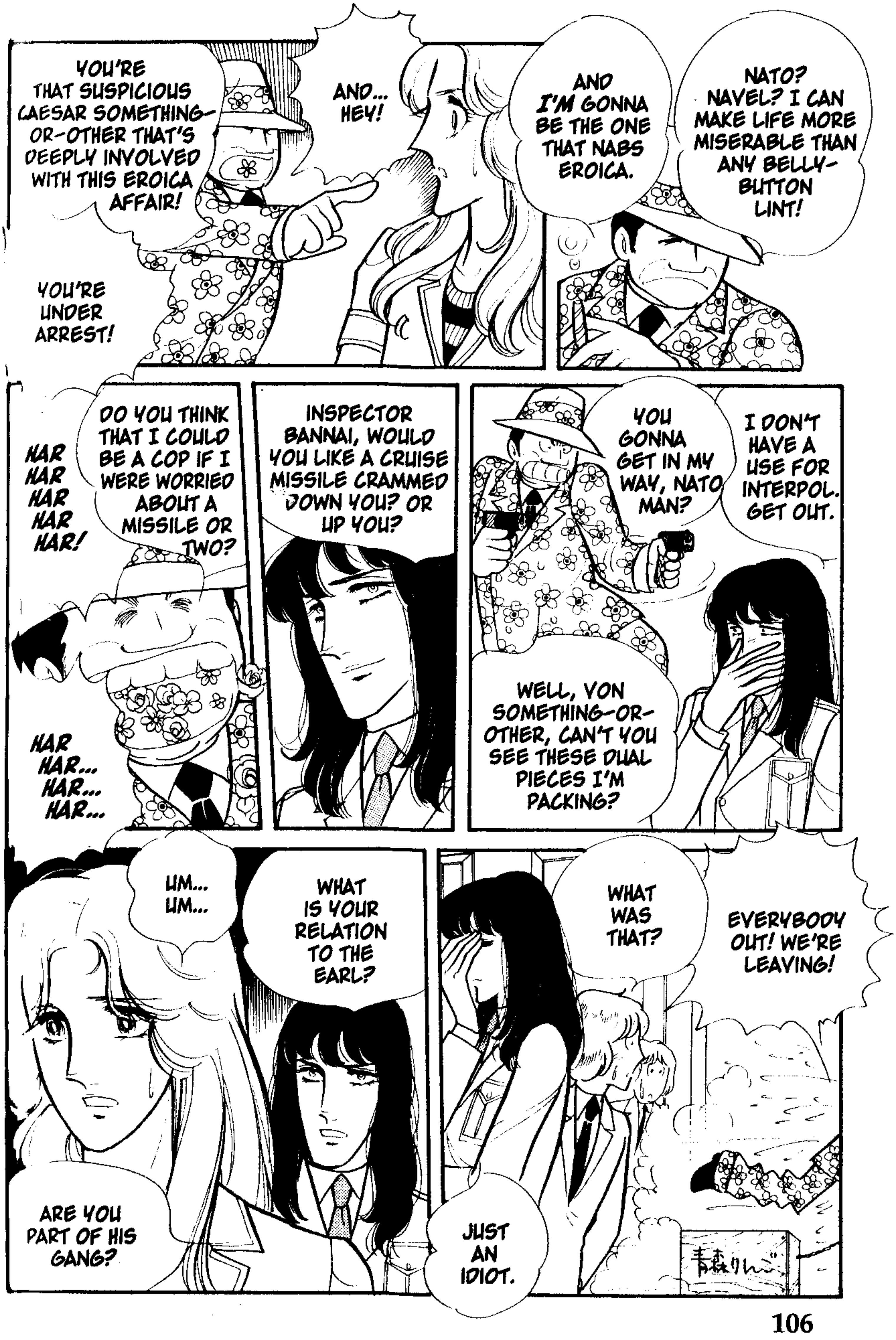

PROFESSOR GABRIEL, PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT INVESTIGATING YOUR ESP, IF YOU HAVE IT THAT IS, IS CRITICAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL OF THE HUMAN MIND. AND I NEED NOT GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT ITS POTENTIAL MILITARY USES.
SO SIMPLY DO THE APPRAISING.
DON'T BOTHER TO LIE AND PRETEND YOU'RE NORMAL.
I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH IT.
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE ME.
I'M NOT A MAN TO BE TRIFLED WITH.
HELP! SUGAR! LEOPARD! I'VE BECOME SOME SORT OF GUINEA PIG!
WE'RE ON A PLANE RIGHT NOW.
HANG IN THERE, MATE. WE'RE GONNA BE LANDING PRETTY SOON.
I DID AS YOU ASKED, EARL.
WELL DONE.
NOW LET'S SEE IF WE CAN RAIN ON THAT STUCK-UP GERMAN'S PARADE, SHALL WE?

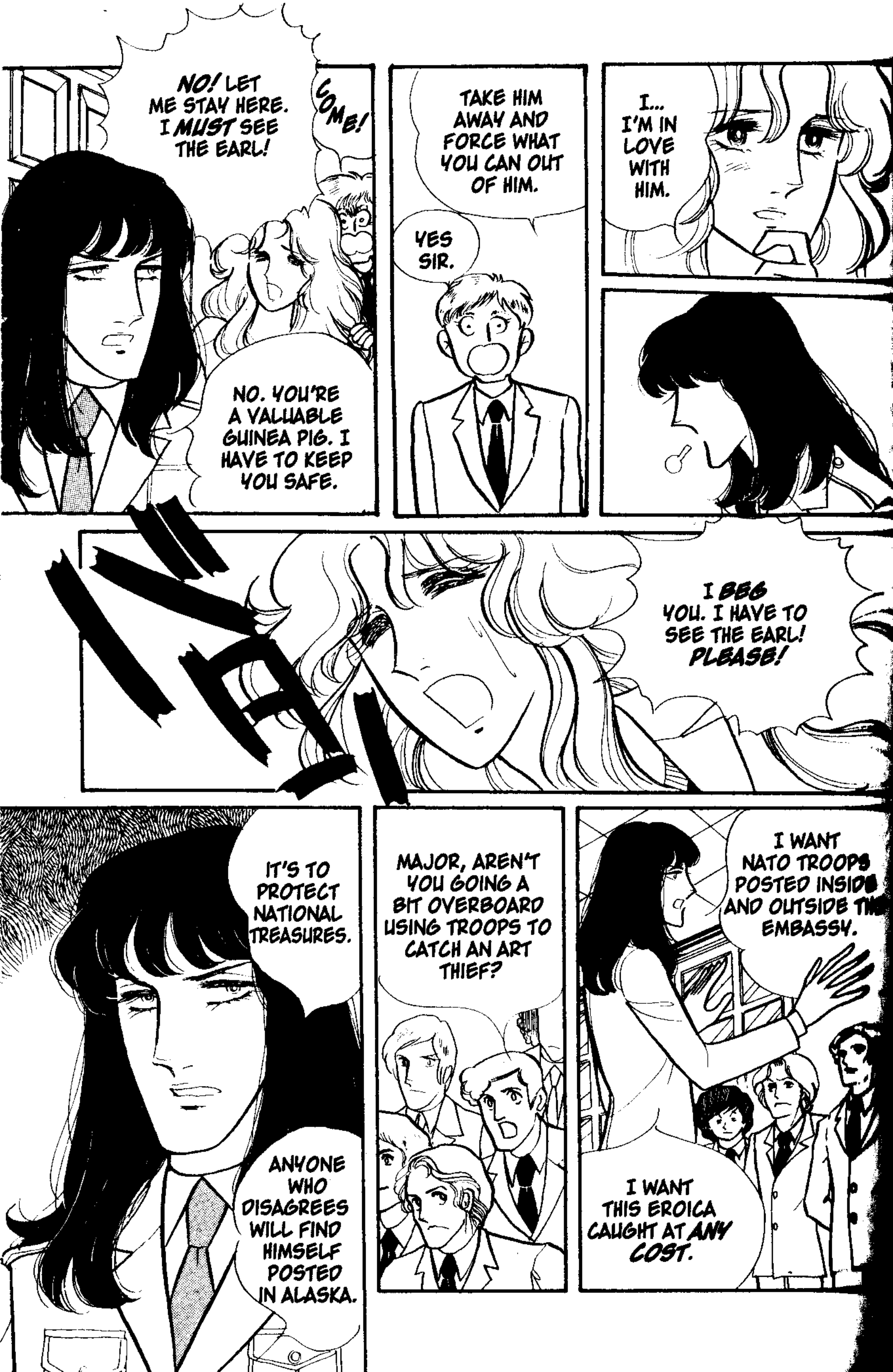

Coffee
NO SUGAR
PUSH
WATCH THAT
WHAT A DULL ASSIGNMENT.
MAJOR, THIS CAME FOR YOU JUST NOW.
WHO BROUGHT THIS? WHA DID HE LO LIKE?
LIKE A CIVILIAN.
YOU IDIOT, BE MORE SPECIFIC!
LIKE A NORM CIVILIA
USELESS GIT!
THAT DEGENERAT
SO, HE'S MADE HIS WAY HERE, HAS HE?
HE ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS!

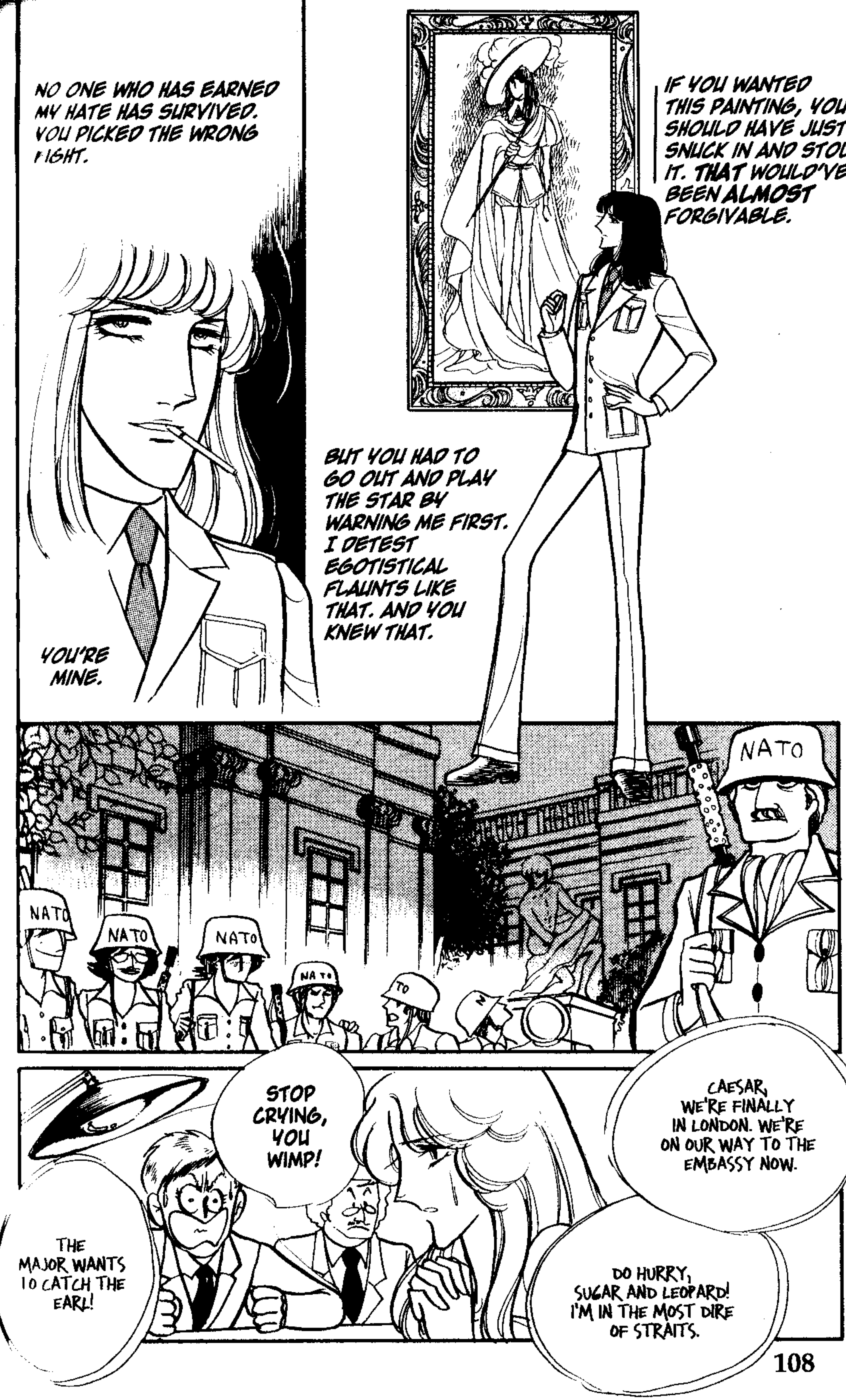

Dear Major,
I shall be visiting you tonight to relieve you of your beloved national treasures. You have been forewarned.
from Eroica with love
ONLY THAT SWINE WOULD HAVE THE GALL TO DO SOMETHING *THIS* ARROGANT.
GET EVERYTHING THAT YOU CAN FIND ON EROICA!
YES SIR.
ART THEFT LIES OUTSIDE MY JURISDICTION-- NO WONDER I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT HIM.
「エロイカ」
BUT HE'S GOOD-- *VERY* GOOD.
HE'S NOTHING BUT A COMMON CROOK, YET HE HAD THE AUDACITY TO WALTZ RIGHT INTO MY HOME IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! *MY* HOME!
AND HE INTENDS TO STEAL *MY* PAINTINGS? THE NERVE OF THAT DEGENERATE!
I HATE HIM EVEN MORE. I WILL *NOT* GIVE HIM THE SATISFACTION OF TAKING *ANYTHING*.

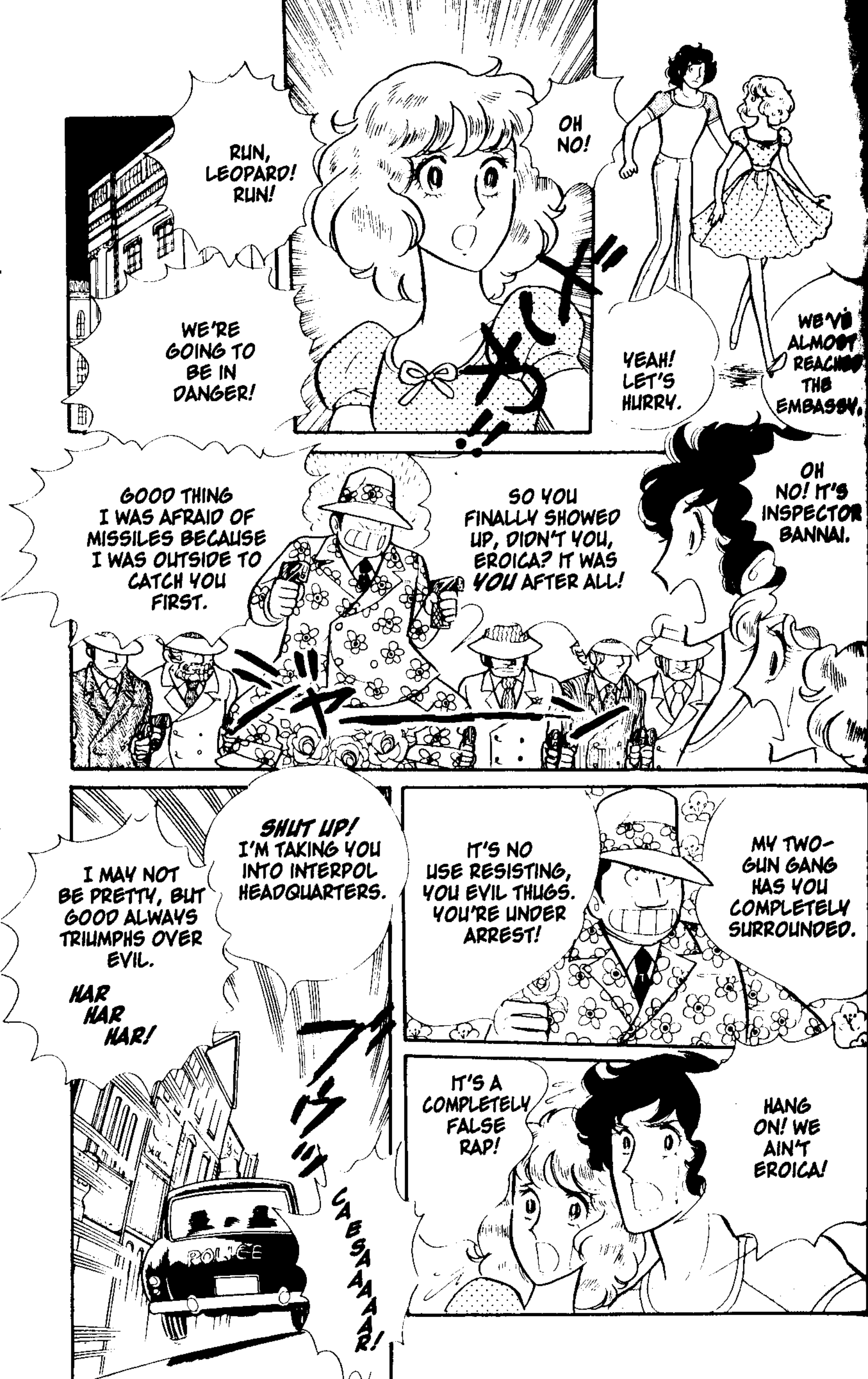

I WANT SECURITY BOOSTED TO FULL ALERT AT THE EMBASSY!
ARE WE UNDER NUCLEAR ATTACK?
NO! WORSE! EROICA INTENDS TO STEAL OUR NATIONAL TREASURES!
THE EARL?
THE EARL'S COMING *HERE?*

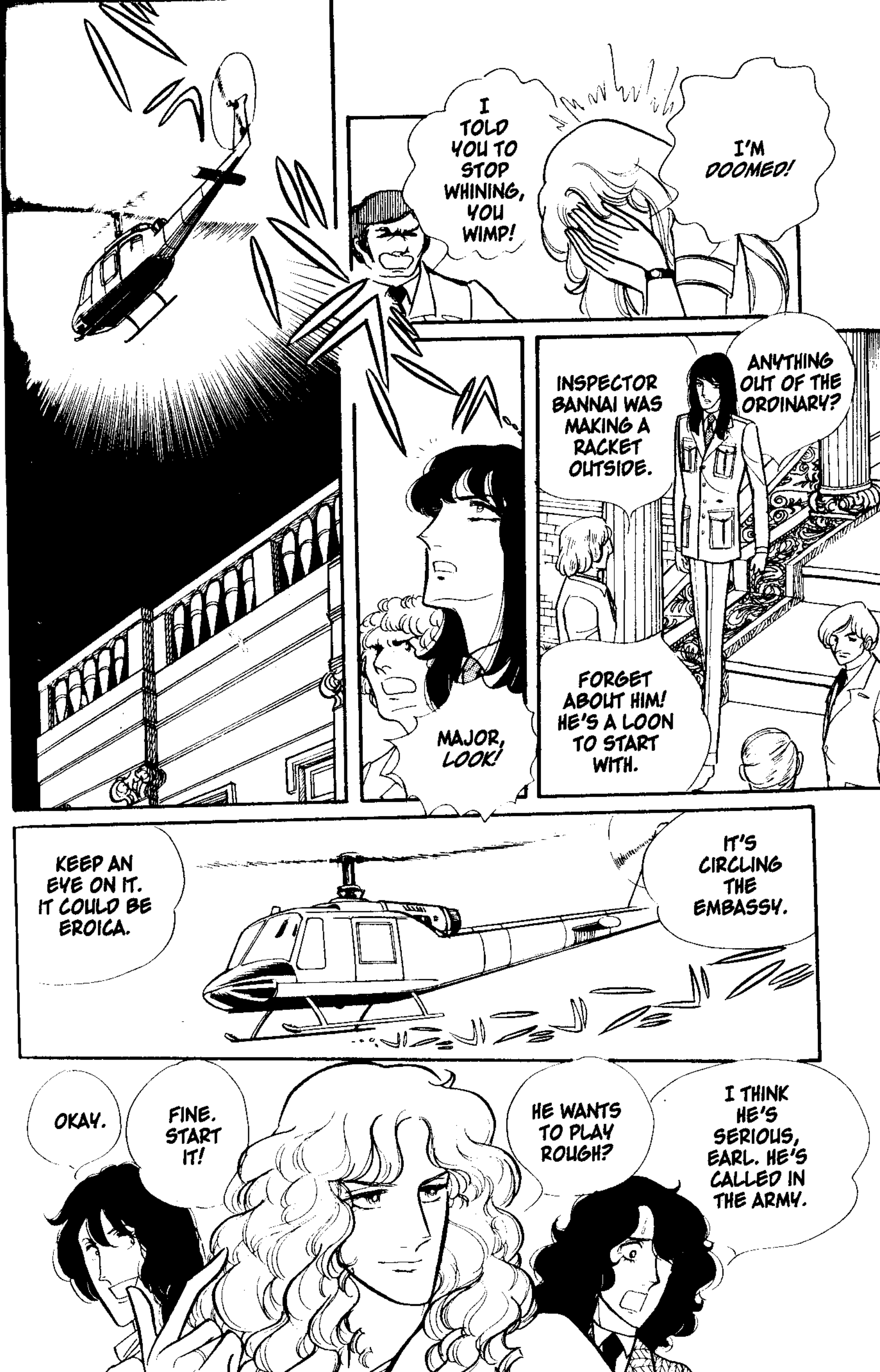

YOU *KNOW* THA DEGENERAT
UM... UM...
SO YOU *DO* KNOW THE EARL!
TOOOOOOOT!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE PIED PIPER?
EROICA! I HAVE COM TO APPREHEN YOU AT LAST
RESISTANCE IS USELESS.
明暗
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU?
AT TIMES, A TRAVELING BUDDHIST MONK.
BUT I'M NOT ALWAYS SO.
FOR I AM TARAC BANNAI INTERPO
THE MASTER OF DISGUISE WHO'S DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO CATCHING EROICA!
SO ARE YOU IMPRESSED?
SOMEONE CALL UP THE ZOO AND HAVE THIS APE TAKEN AWAY.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, CALLING ME AN APE?
I SHOULD HAVE YOU TAKEN IN!
I AM KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH.
OF NATO.

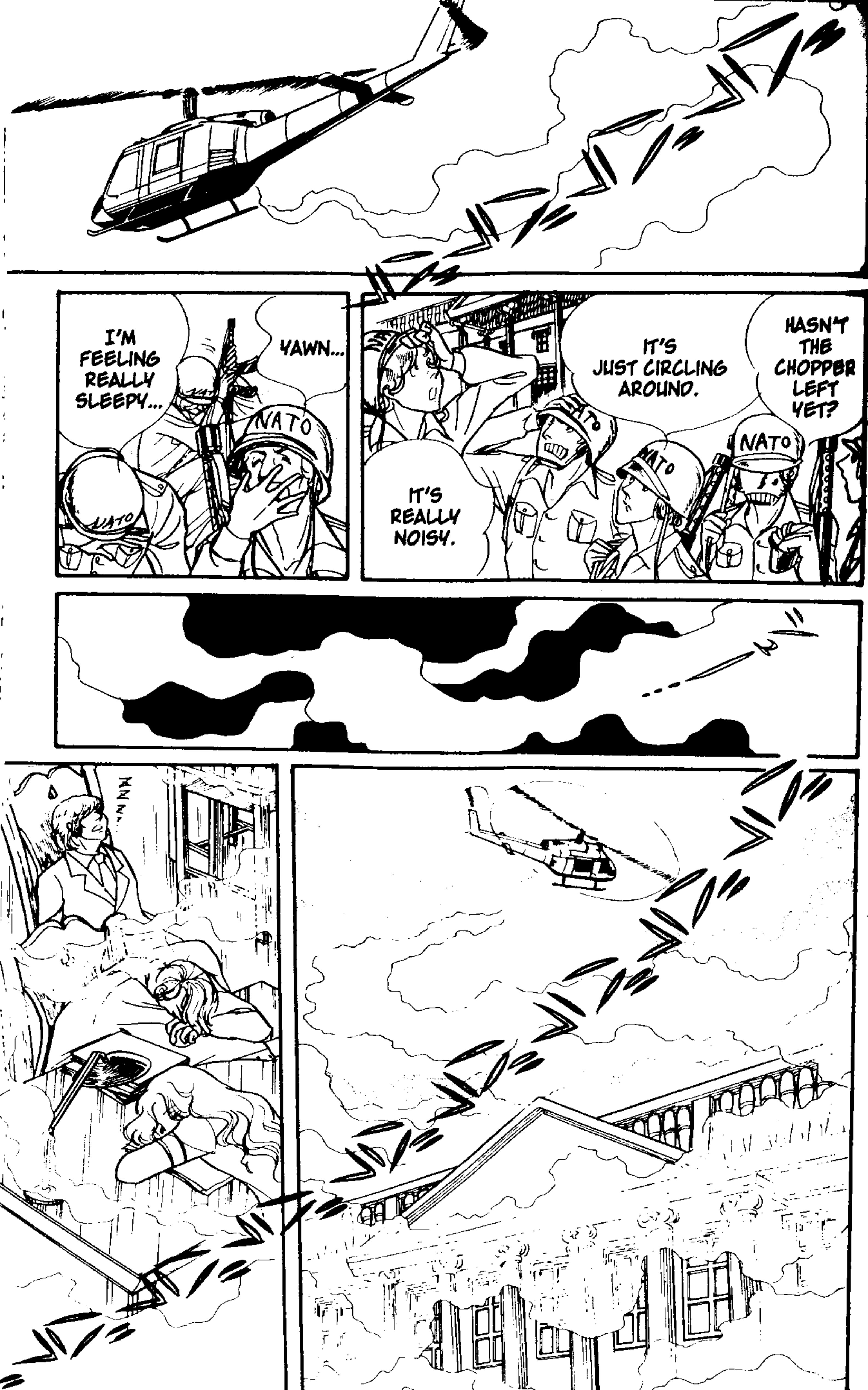

NATO? NAVEL? I CAN MAKE LIFE MORE MISERABLE THAN ANY BELLY-BUTTON LINT!
AND *I'M* GONNA BE THE ONE THAT NABS EROICA.
AND... HEY!
YOU'RE THAT SUSPICIOUS CAESAR SOMETHING-OR-OTHER THAT'S DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THIS EROICA AFFAIR!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
I DON'T HAVE A USE FOR INTERPOL. GET OUT.
YOU GONNA GET IN MY WAY, NATO MAN?
WELL, VON SOMETHING-OR-OTHER, CAN'T YOU SEE THESE DUAL PIECES I'M PACKING?
INSPECTOR BANNAI, WOULD YOU LIKE A CRUISE MISSILE CRAMMED DOWN YOU? OR UP YOU?
DO YOU THINK THAT I COULD BE A COP IF I WERE WORRIED ABOUT A MISSILE OR TWO?
HAR HAR HAR HAR HAR!
HAR HAR... HAR... HAR...
EVERYBODY OUT! WE'RE LEAVING!
WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST AN IDIOT.
青森りんご
WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO THE EARL?
UM... UM...
ARE YOU PART OF HIS GANG?

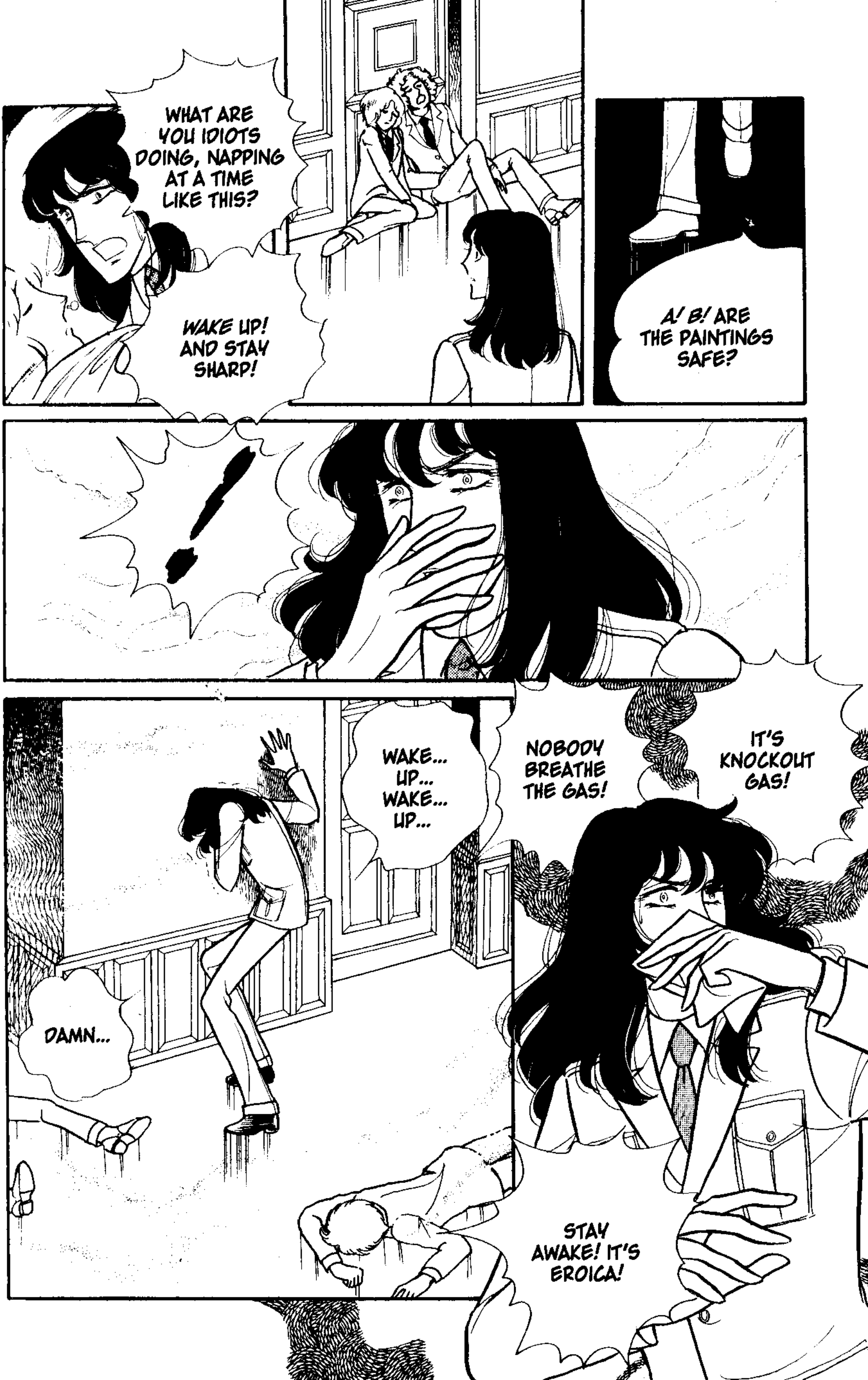

I... I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.
TAKE HIM AWAY AND FORCE WHAT YOU CAN OUT OF HIM.
YES SIR.
NO! LET ME STAY HERE. I MUST SEE THE EARL!
COME!
NO. YOU'RE A VALUABLE GUINEA PIG. I HAVE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
I BEG YOU. I HAVE TO SEE THE EARL! PLEASE!
I WANT NATO TROOPS POSTED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY.
I WANT THIS EROICA CAUGHT AT ANY COST.
MAJOR, AREN'T YOU GOING A BIT OVERBOARD USING TROOPS TO CATCH AN ART THIEF?
IT'S TO PROTECT NATIONAL TREASURES.
ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WILL FIND HIMSELF POSTED IN ALASKA.

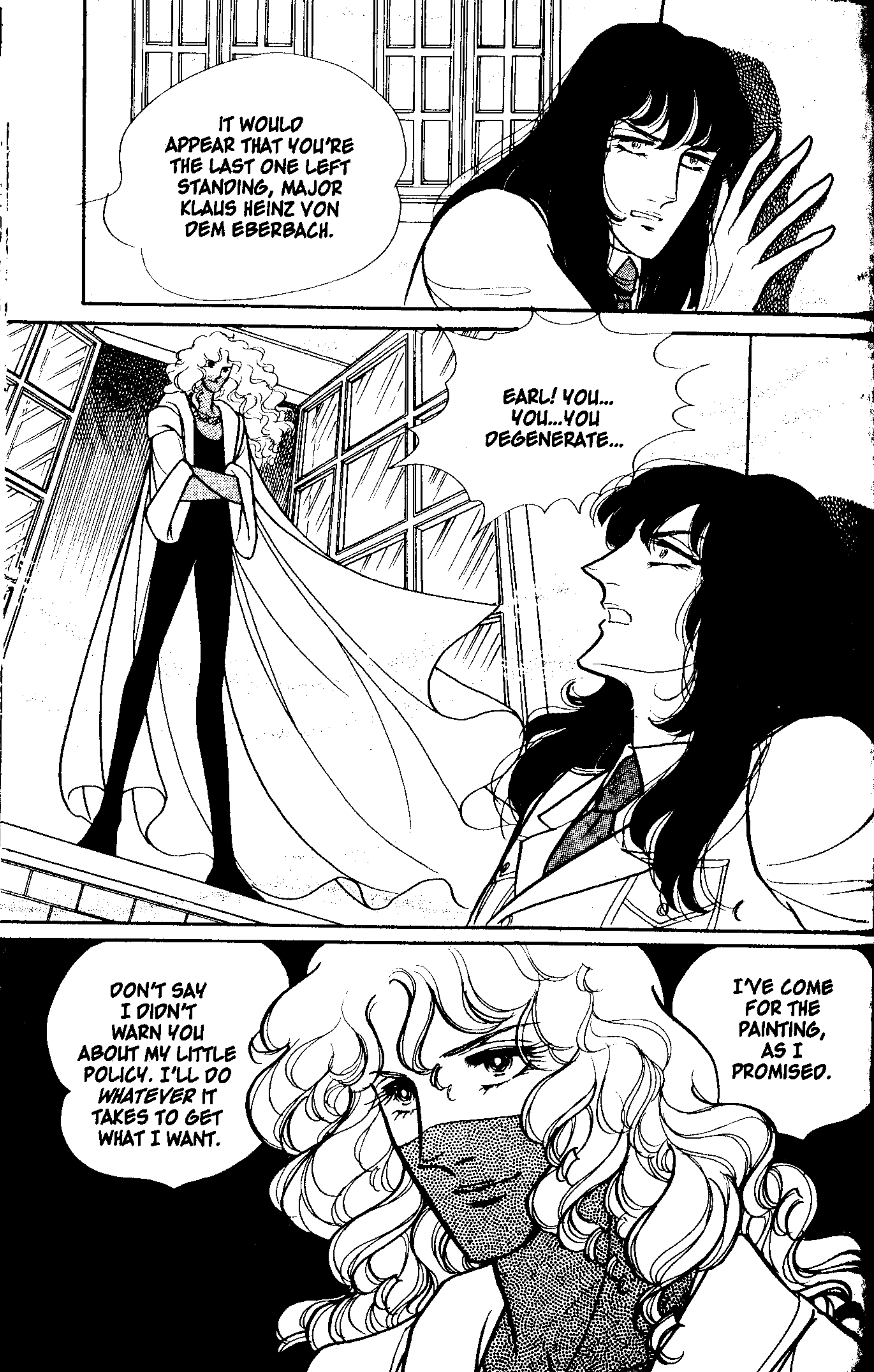

IF YOU WANTED THIS PAINTING, YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SNUCK IN AND STOLE IT. **THAT** WOULD'VE BEEN **ALMOST** FORGIVABLE.
BUT YOU HAD TO GO OUT AND PLAY THE STAR BY WARNING ME FIRST. I DETEST EGOTISTICAL FLAUNTS LIKE THAT. AND YOU KNEW THAT.
NO ONE WHO HAS EARNED MY HATE HAS SURVIVED. YOU PICKED THE WRONG FIGHT.
YOU'RE MINE.
NATO
NATO
NATO
NATO
NATO
CAESAR, WE'RE FINALLY IN LONDON. WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE EMBASSY NOW.
DO HURRY, SUGAR AND LEOPARD! I'M IN THE MOST DIRE OF STRAITS.
STOP CRYING, YOU WIMP!
THE MAJOR WANTS TO CATCH THE EARL!

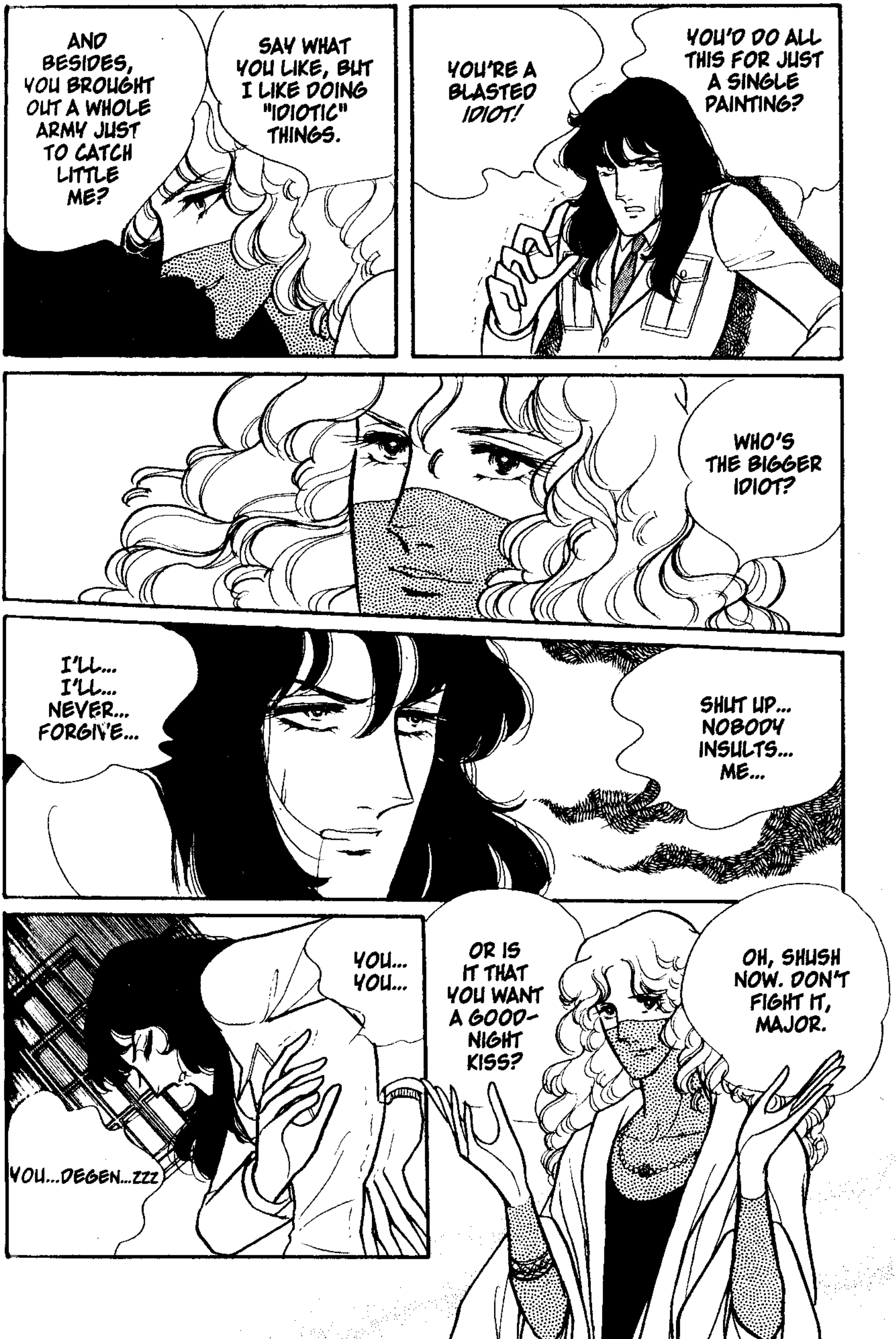

WE'VE ALMOST REACHED THE EMBASSY.
YEAH! LET'S HURRY.
OH NO!
RUN, LEOPARD! RUN!
WE'RE GOING TO BE IN DANGER!
OH NO! IT'S INSPECTOR BANNAI.
SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP, DIDN'T YOU, EROICA? IT WAS *YOU* AFTER ALL!
GOOD THING I WAS AFRAID OF MISSILES BECAUSE I WAS OUTSIDE TO CATCH YOU FIRST.
MY TWO-GUN GANG HAS YOU COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.
IT'S NO USE RESISTING, YOU EVIL THUGS. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
HANG ON! WE AIN'T EROICA!
IT'S A COMPLETELY FALSE RAP!
SHUT UP! I'M TAKING YOU INTO INTERPOL HEADQUARTERS.
I MAY NOT BE PRETTY, BUT GOOD ALWAYS TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL.
HAR HAR HAR!
POLICE
CAESAAAAAAR!

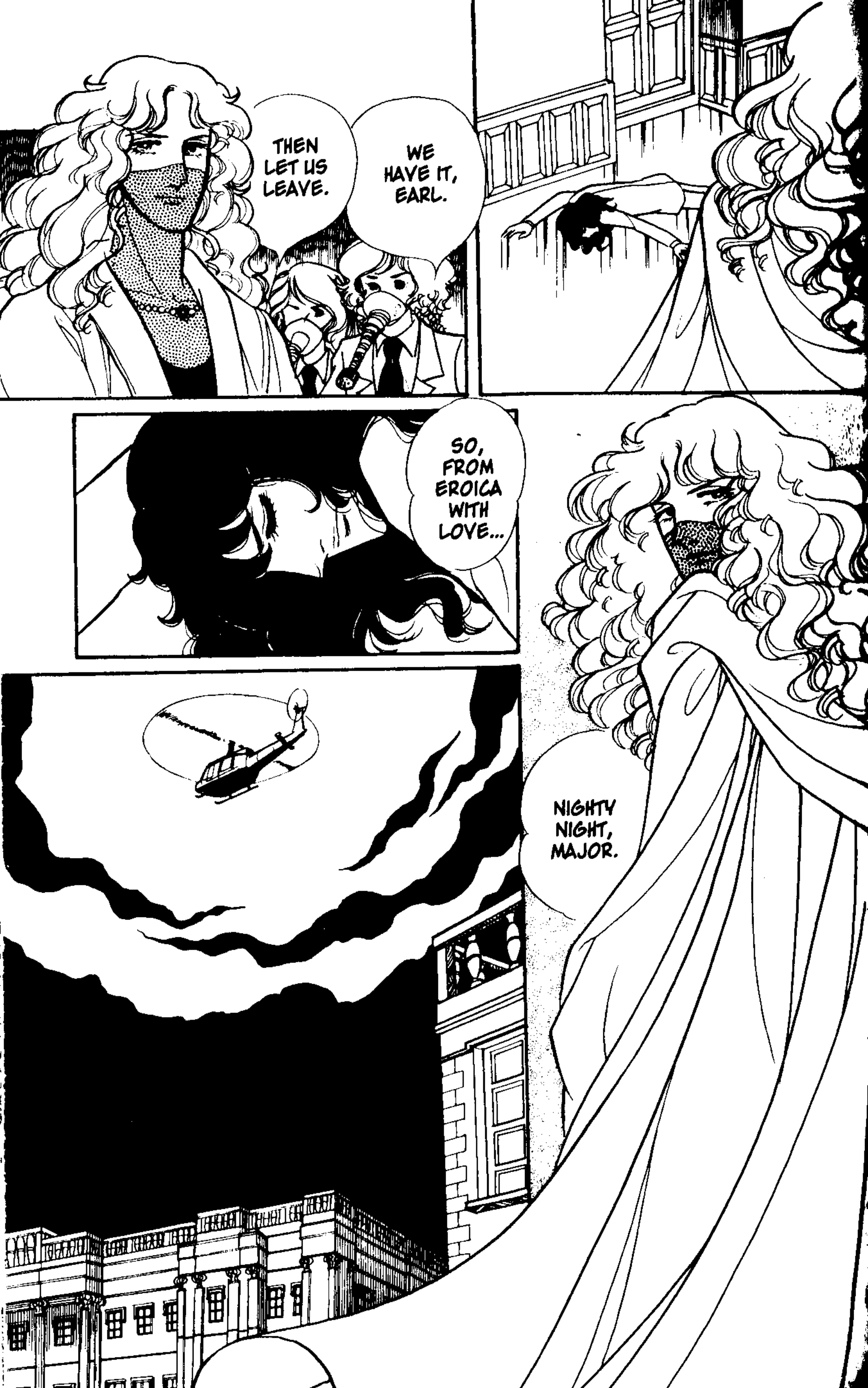

I'M DOOMED!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP WHINING, YOU WIMP!
ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?
INSPECTOR BANNAI WAS MAKING A RACKET OUTSIDE.
FORGET ABOUT HIM! HE'S A LOON TO START WITH.
MAJOR, LOOK!
IT'S CIRCLING THE EMBASSY.
KEEP AN EYE ON IT. IT COULD BE EROICA.
I THINK HE'S SERIOUS, EARL. HE'S CALLED IN THE ARMY.
HE WANTS TO PLAY ROUGH?
FINE. START IT!
OKAY.

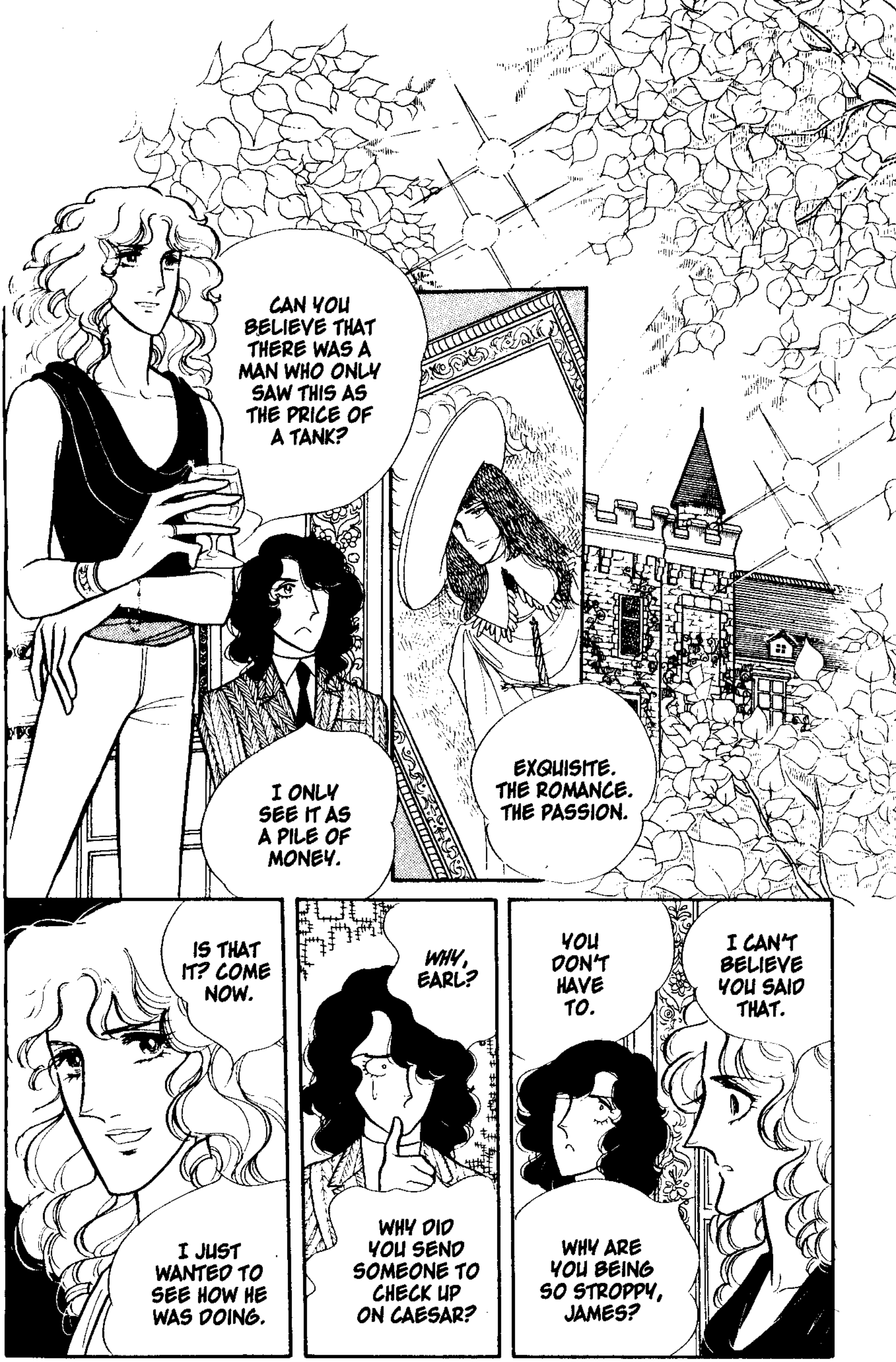

HASN'T THE CHOPPER LEFT YET?
IT'S JUST CIRCLING AROUND.
IT'S REALLY NOISY.
NATO
YAWN...
I'M FEELING REALLY SLEEPY...
NATO
ZZZ

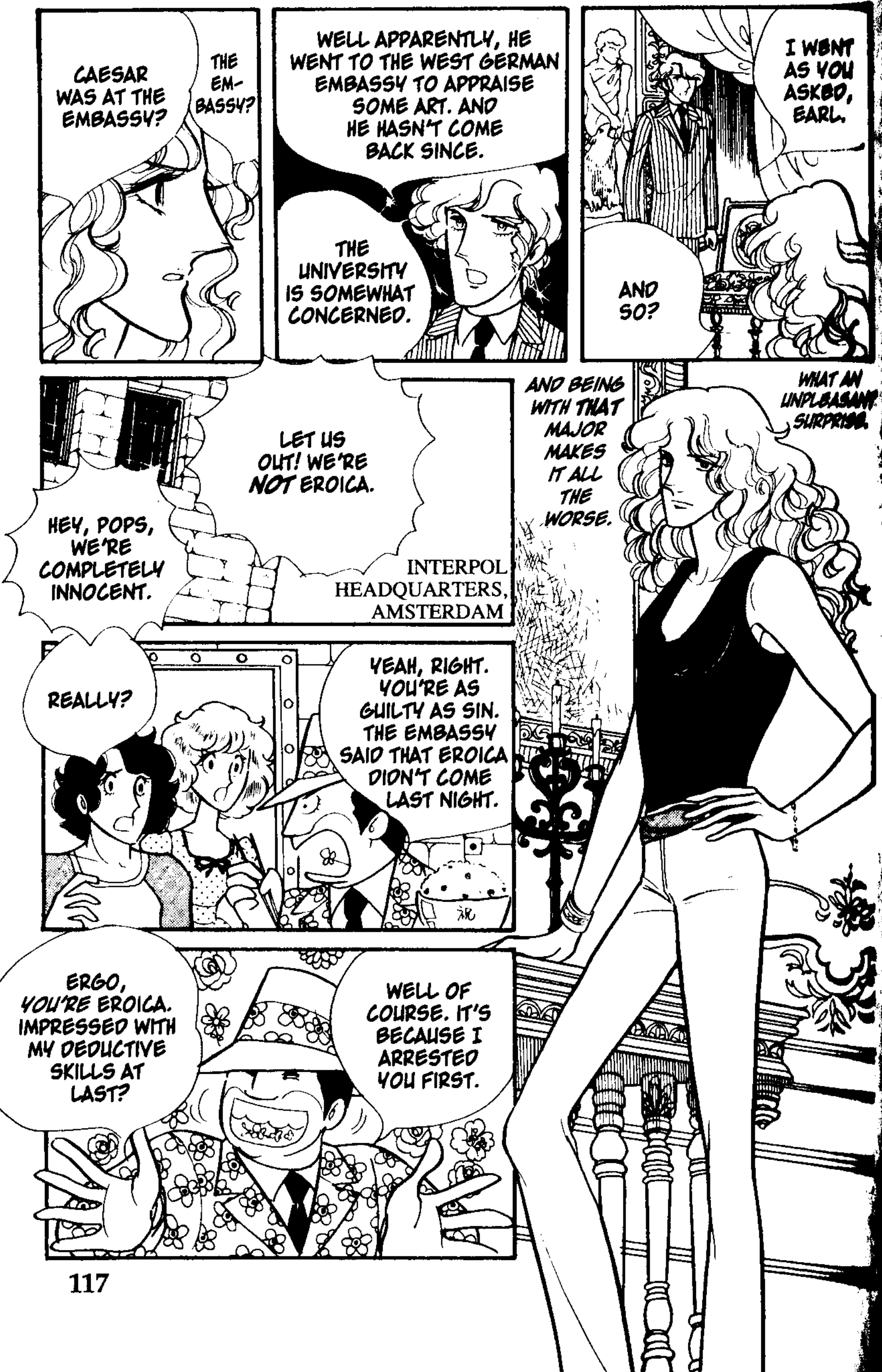

A! B! ARE THE PAINTINGS SAFE?
WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING, NAPPING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WAKE UP! AND STAY SHARP!
!
IT'S KNOCKOUT GAS!
NOBODY BREATHE THE GAS!
STAY AWAKE! IT'S EROICA!
WAKE... UP... WAKE... UP...
DAMN...

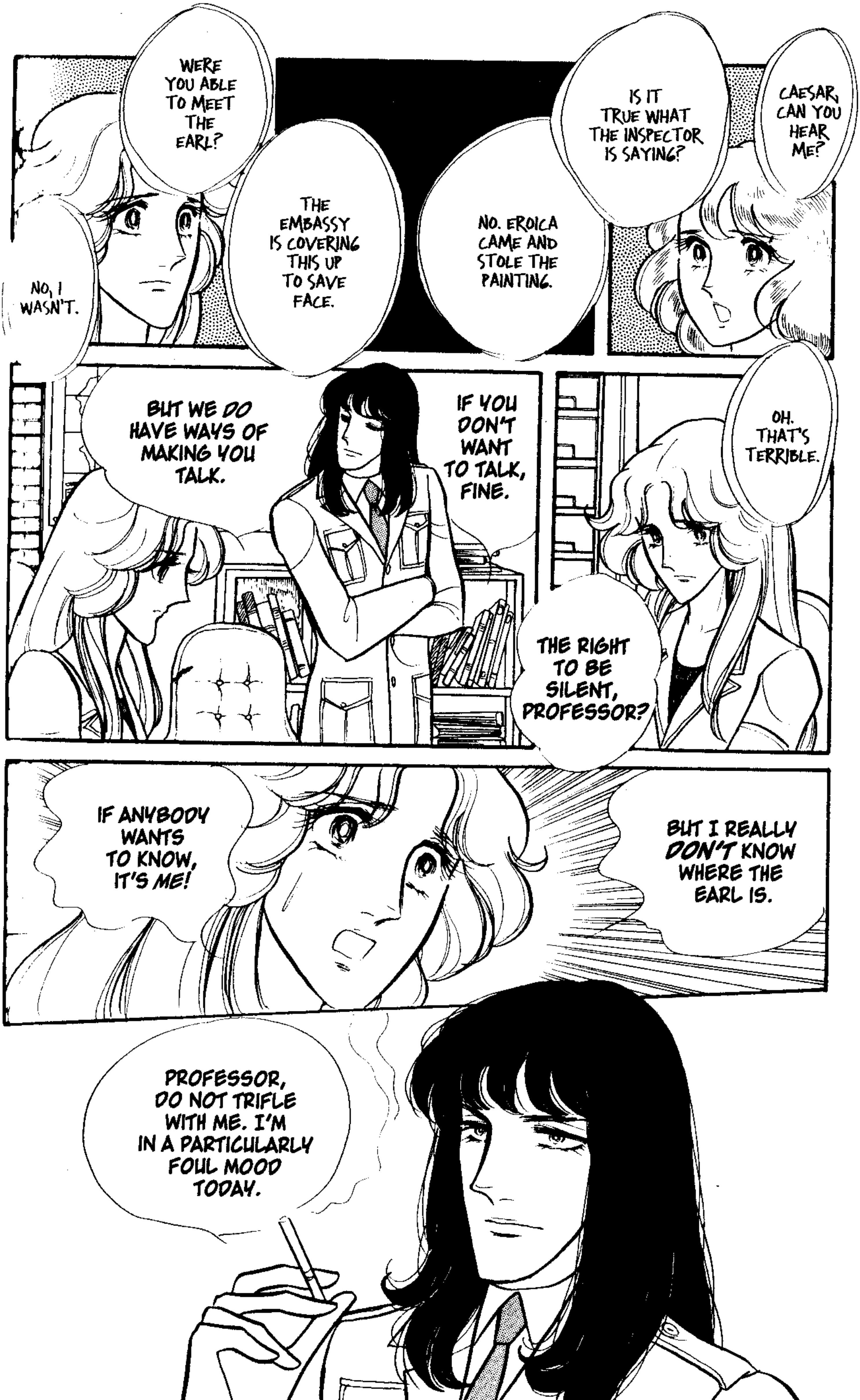

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU'RE THE LAST ONE LEFT STANDING, MAJOR KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH.
EARL! YOU... YOU...YOU DEGENERATE...
I'VE COME FOR THE PAINTING, AS I PROMISED.
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU ABOUT MY LITTLE POLICY. I'LL DO *WHATEVER* IT TAKES TO GET WHAT I WANT.

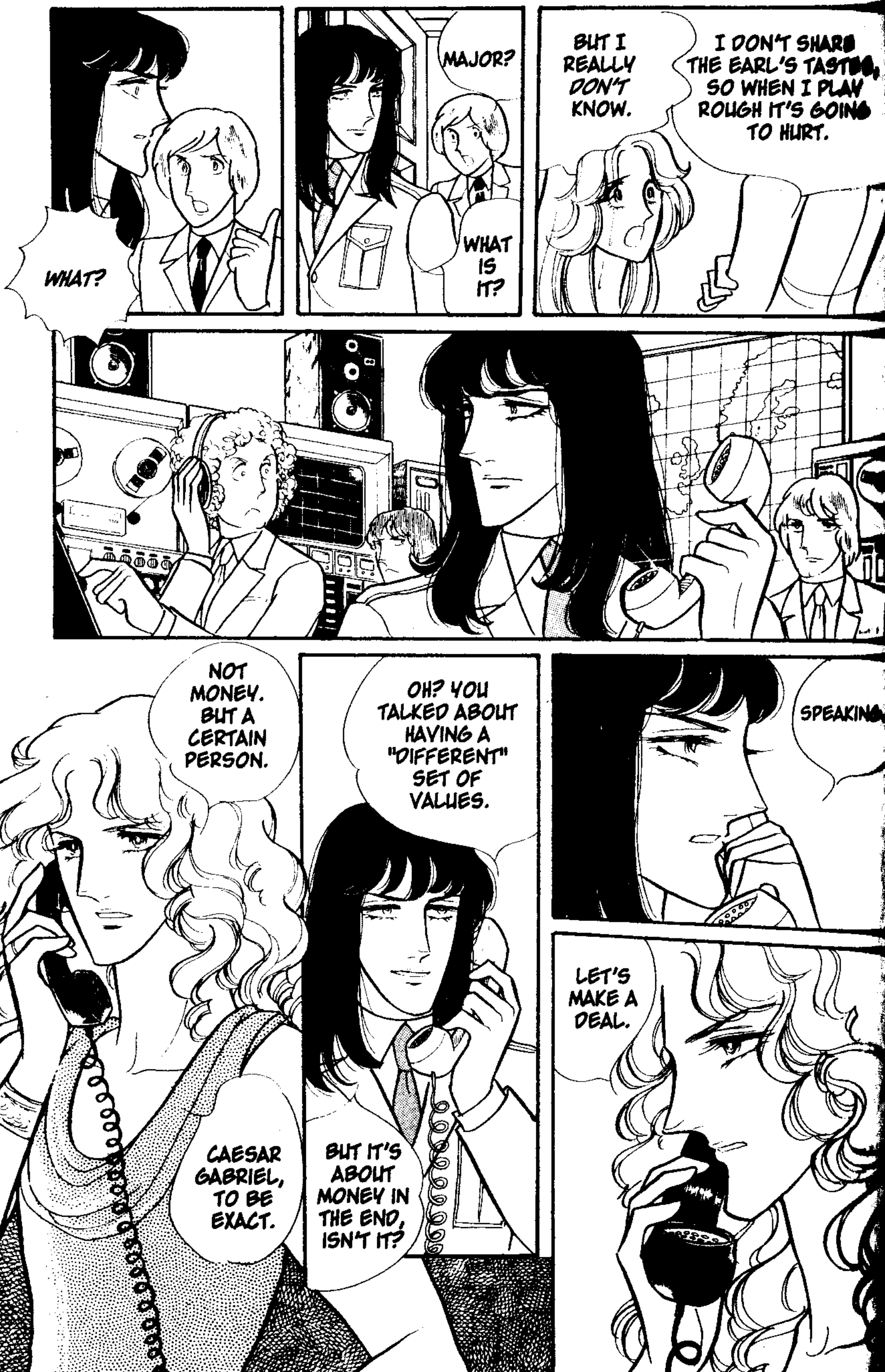

YOU'D DO ALL THIS FOR JUST A SINGLE PAINTING?
YOU'RE A BLASTED *IDIOT!*
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT I LIKE DOING "IDIOTIC" THINGS.
AND BESIDES, YOU BROUGHT OUT A WHOLE ARMY JUST TO CATCH LITTLE ME?
WHO'S THE BIGGER IDIOT?
SHUT UP... NOBODY INSULTS... ME...
I'LL... I'LL... NEVER... FORGIVE...
OH, SHUSH NOW. DON'T FIGHT IT, MAJOR.
OR IS IT THAT YOU WANT A GOOD-NIGHT KISS?
YOU... YOU...
YOU...DEGEN...zzz

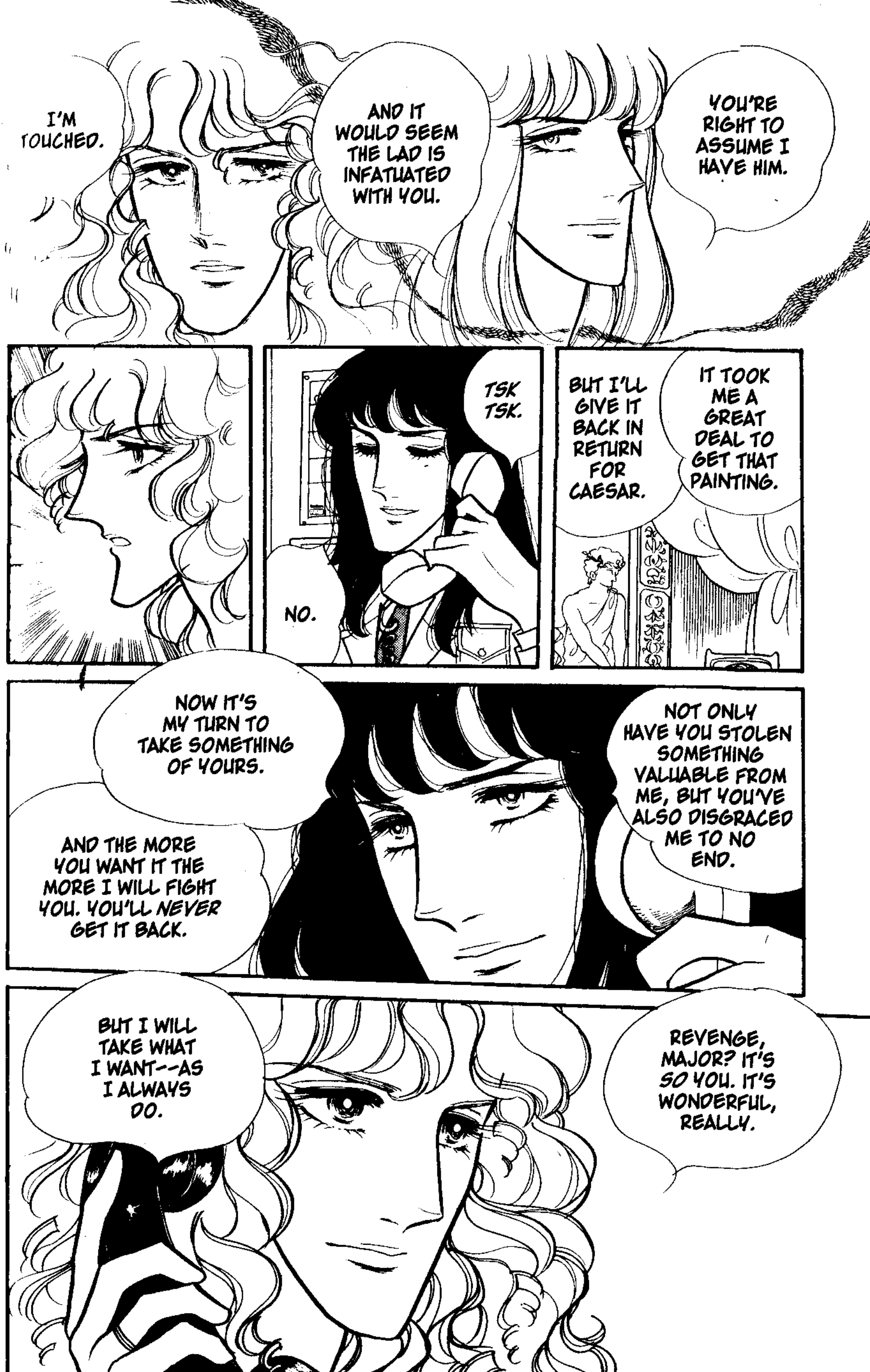

WE HAVE IT, EARL.
THEN LET US LEAVE.
SO, FROM EROICA WITH LOVE...
NIGHTY NIGHT, MAJOR.

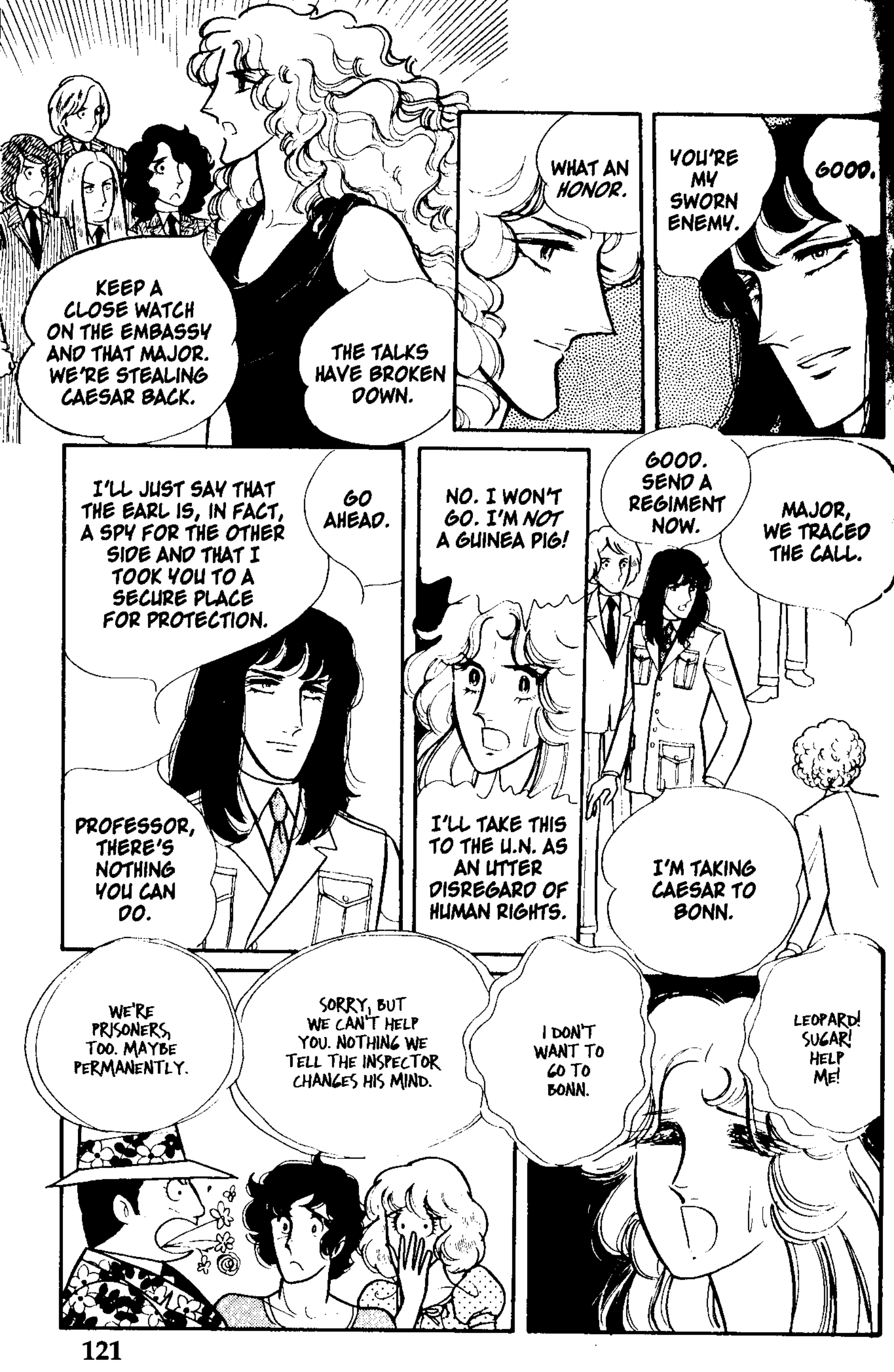

EXQUISITE. THE ROMANCE. THE PASSION.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A MAN WHO ONLY SAW THIS AS THE PRICE OF A TANK?
I ONLY SEE IT AS A PILE OF MONEY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STROPPY, JAMES?
WHY, EARL?
WHY DID YOU SEND SOMEONE TO CHECK UP ON CAESAR?
IS THAT IT? COME NOW.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW HE WAS DOING.

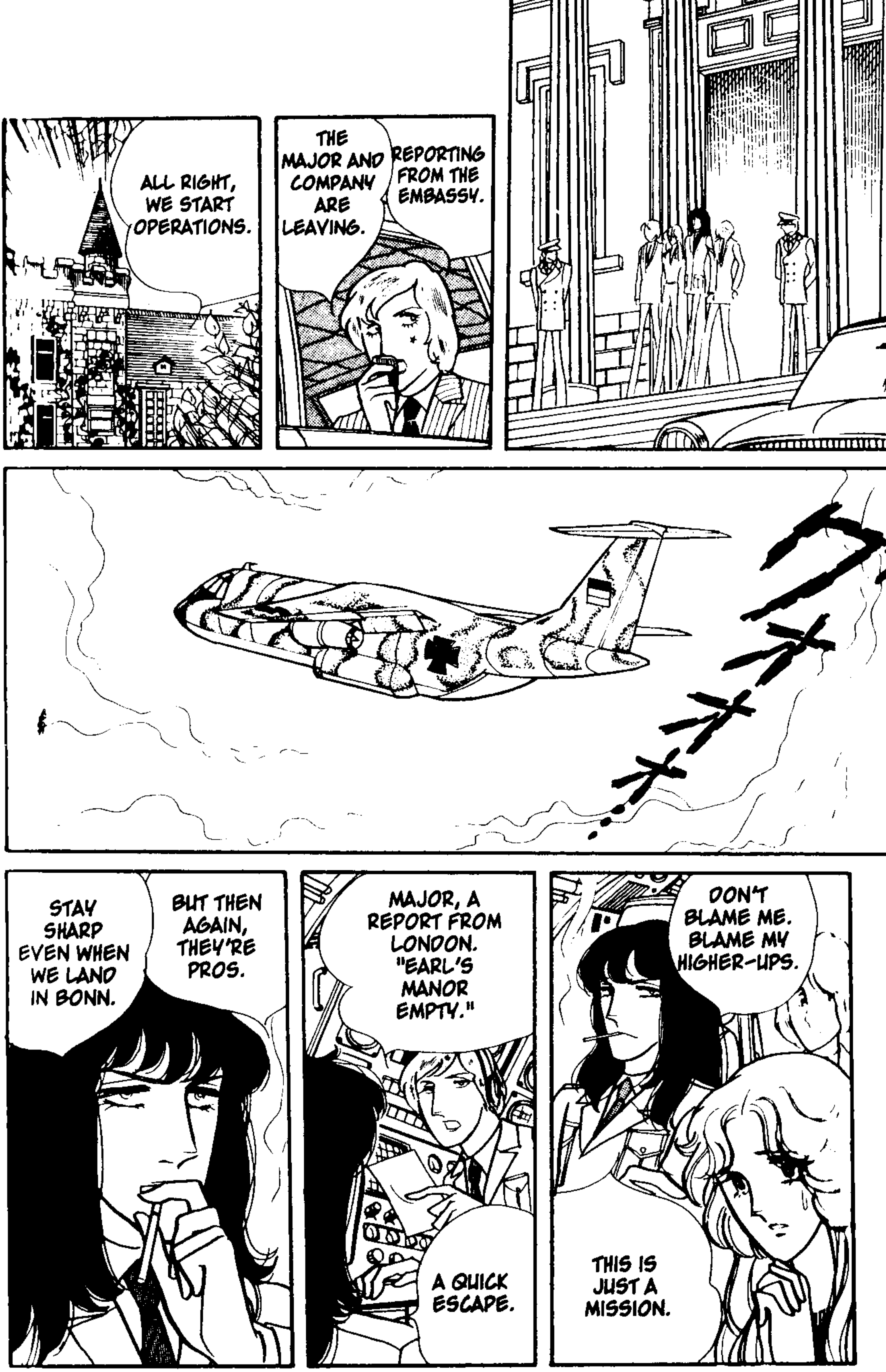

I WENT AS YOU ASKED, EARL.
AND SO?
WELL APPARENTLY, HE WENT TO THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY TO APPRAISE SOME ART. AND HE HASN'T COME BACK SINCE.
THE UNIVERSITY IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED.
THE EMBASSY?
CAESAR WAS AT THE EMBASSY?
WHAT AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE.
AND BEING WITH *THAT* MAJOR MAKES IT ALL THE WORSE.
INTERPOL HEADQUARTERS, AMSTERDAM
LET US OUT! WE'RE *NOT* EROICA.
HEY, POPS, WE'RE COMPLETELY INNOCENT.
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU'RE AS GUILTY AS SIN. THE EMBASSY SAID THAT EROICA DIDN'T COME LAST NIGHT.
REALLY?
WELL OF COURSE. IT'S BECAUSE I ARRESTED YOU FIRST.
ERGO, YOU'RE EROICA. IMPRESSED WITH MY DEDUCTIVE SKILLS AT LAST?

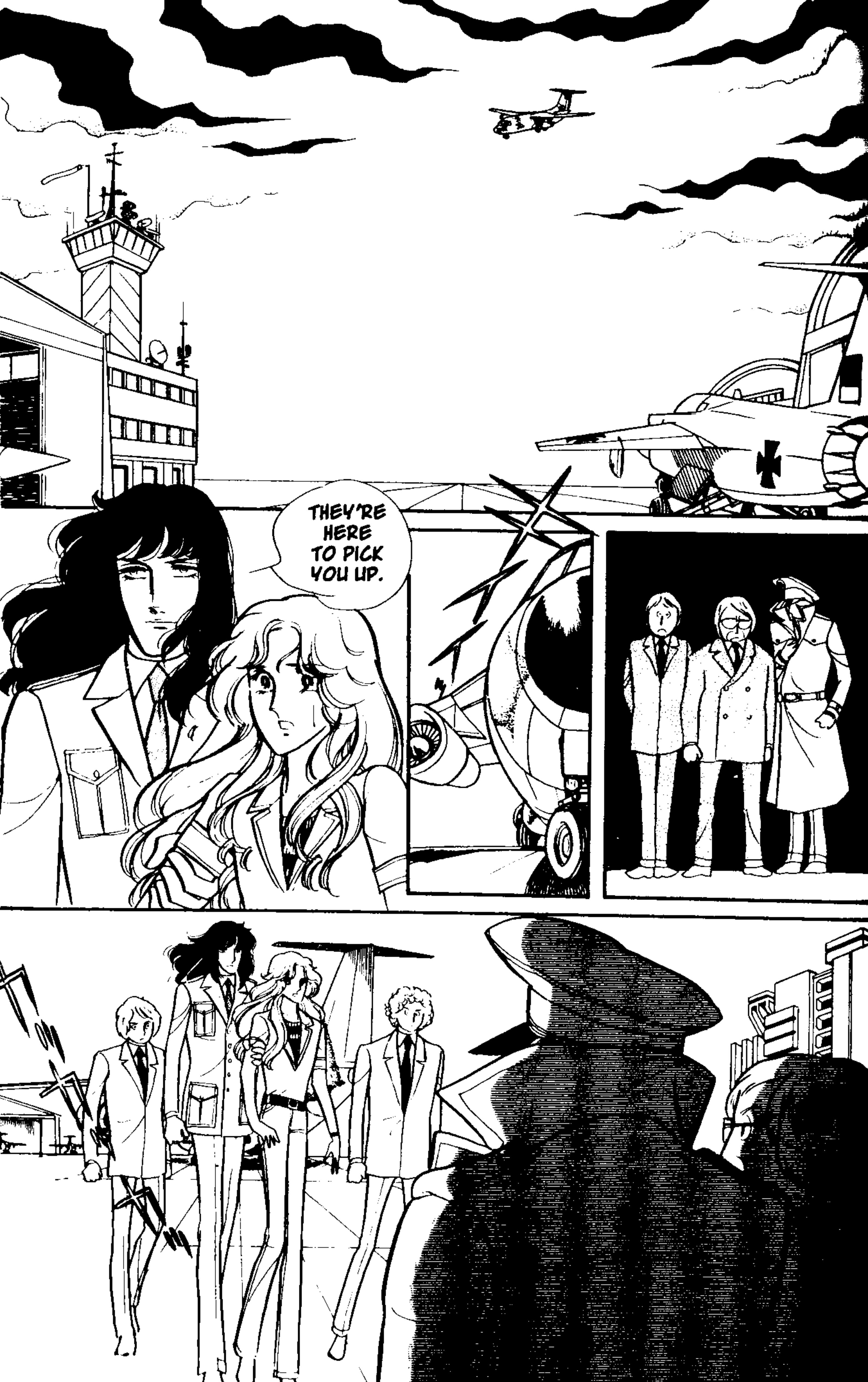

CAESAR, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
IS IT TRUE WHAT THE INSPECTOR IS SAYING?
NO. EROICA CAME AND STOLE THE PAINTING.
THE EMBASSY IS COVERING THIS UP TO SAVE FACE.
WERE YOU ABLE TO MEET THE EARL?
NO, I WASN'T.
OH. THAT'S TERRIBLE.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK, FINE.
THE RIGHT TO BE SILENT, PROFESSOR?
BUT WE *DO* HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK.
BUT I REALLY *DON'T* KNOW WHERE THE EARL IS.
IF ANYBODY WANTS TO KNOW, IT'S *ME!*
PROFESSOR, DO NOT TRIFLE WITH ME. I'M IN A PARTICULARLY FOUL MOOD TODAY.

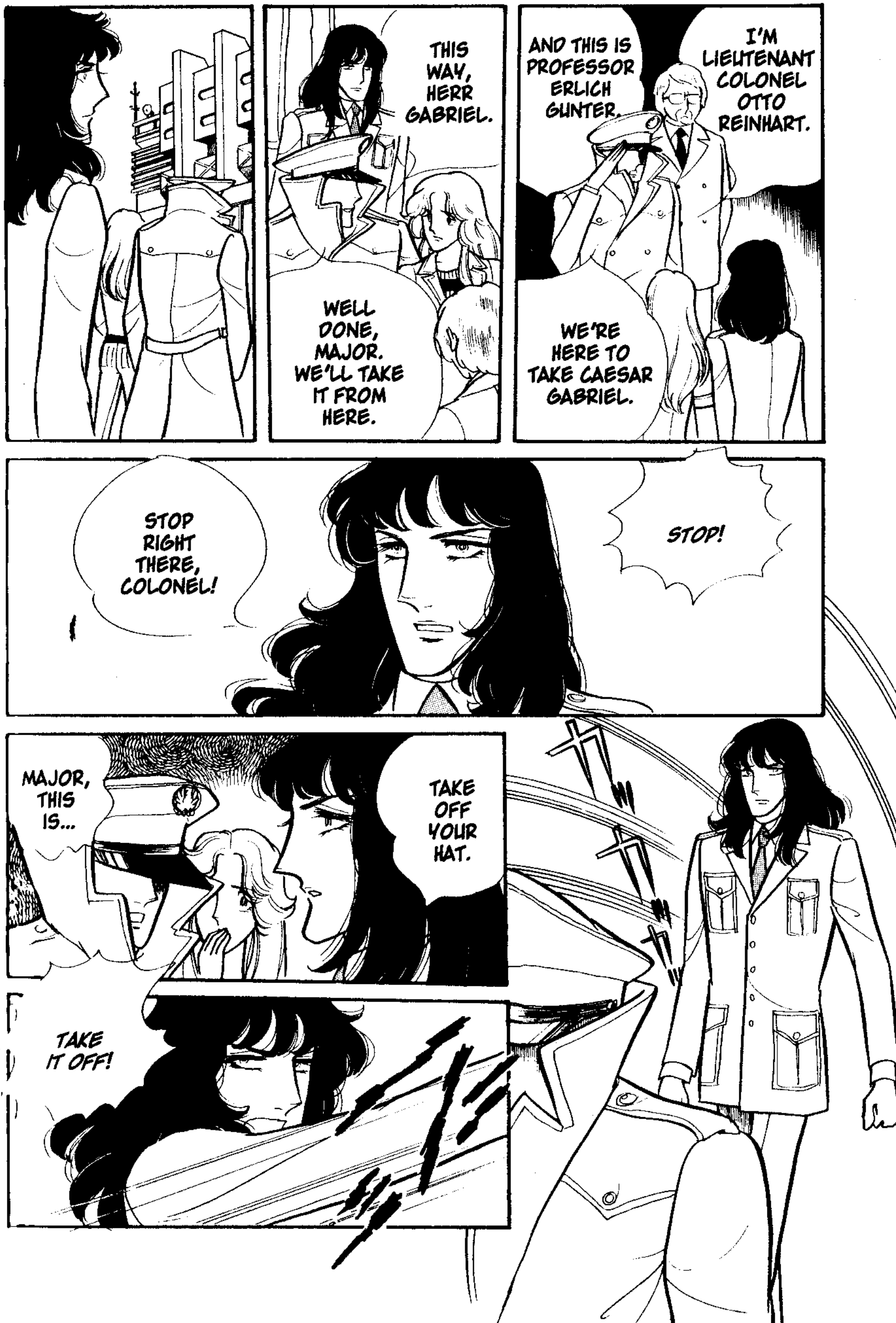

I DON'T SHAR
THE EARL'S TAST
SO WHEN I PLAY
ROUGH IT'S GOIN
TO HURT.
BUT I REALLY *DON'T* KNOW.
MAJOR?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?
SPEAKIN
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.
OH? YOU TALKED ABOUT HAVING A "DIFFERENT" SET OF VALUES.
NOT MONEY. BUT A CERTAIN PERSON.
CAESAR GABRIEL, TO BE EXACT.
BUT IT'S ABOUT MONEY IN THE END, ISN'T IT?

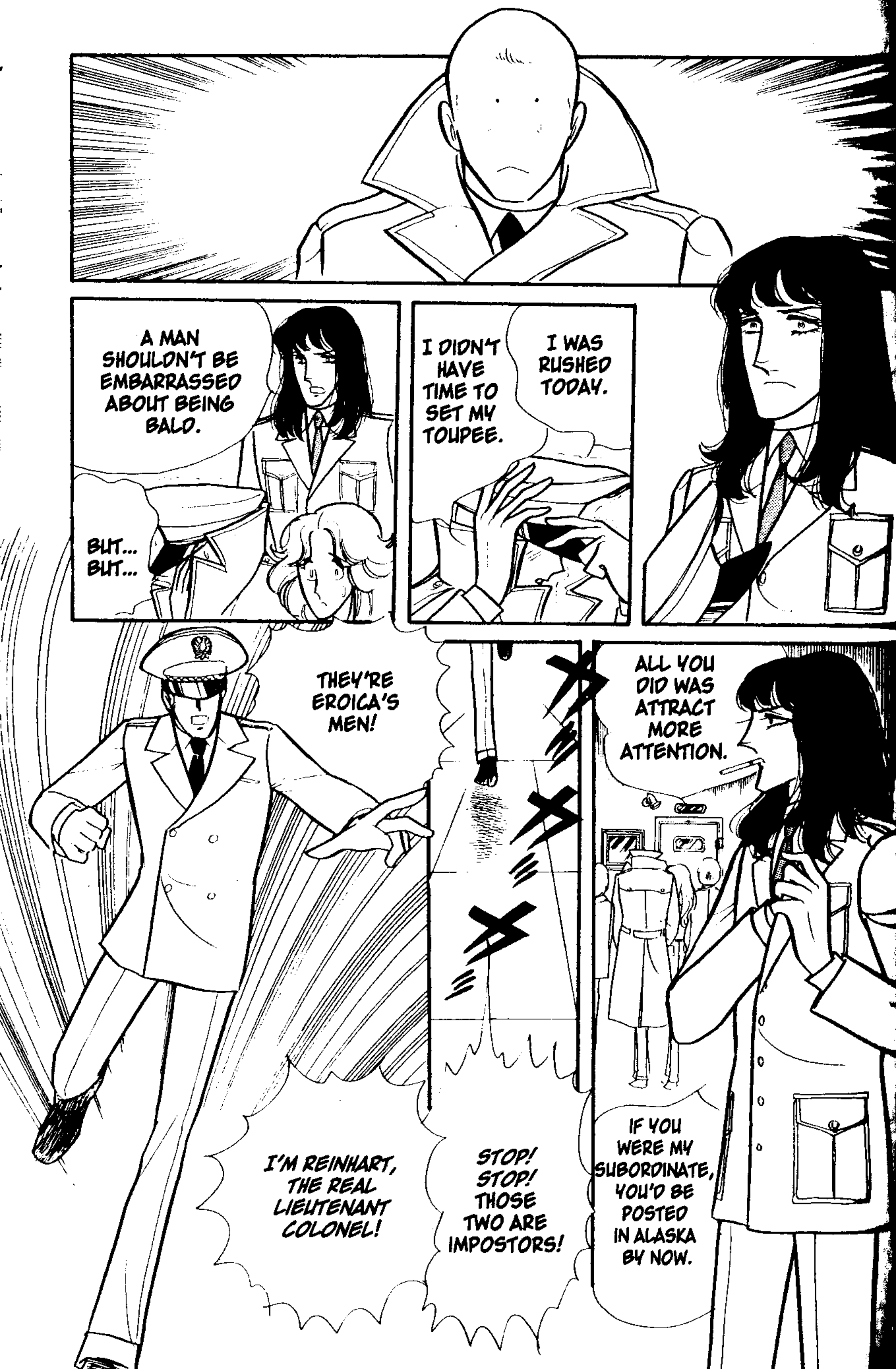

YOU'RE RIGHT TO ASSUME I HAVE HIM.
AND IT WOULD SEEM THE LAD IS INFATUATED WITH YOU.
I'M TOUCHED.
IT TOOK ME A GREAT DEAL TO GET THAT PAINTING.
BUT I'LL GIVE IT BACK IN RETURN FOR CAESAR.
TSK TSK.
NO.
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU STOLEN SOMETHING VALUABLE FROM ME, BUT YOU'VE ALSO DISGRACED ME TO NO END.
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TAKE SOMETHING OF YOURS.
AND THE MORE YOU WANT IT THE MORE I WILL FIGHT YOU. YOU'LL *NEVER* GET IT BACK.
REVENGE, MAJOR? IT'S *SO* YOU. IT'S WONDERFUL, REALLY.
BUT I WILL TAKE WHAT I WANT--AS I ALWAYS DO.

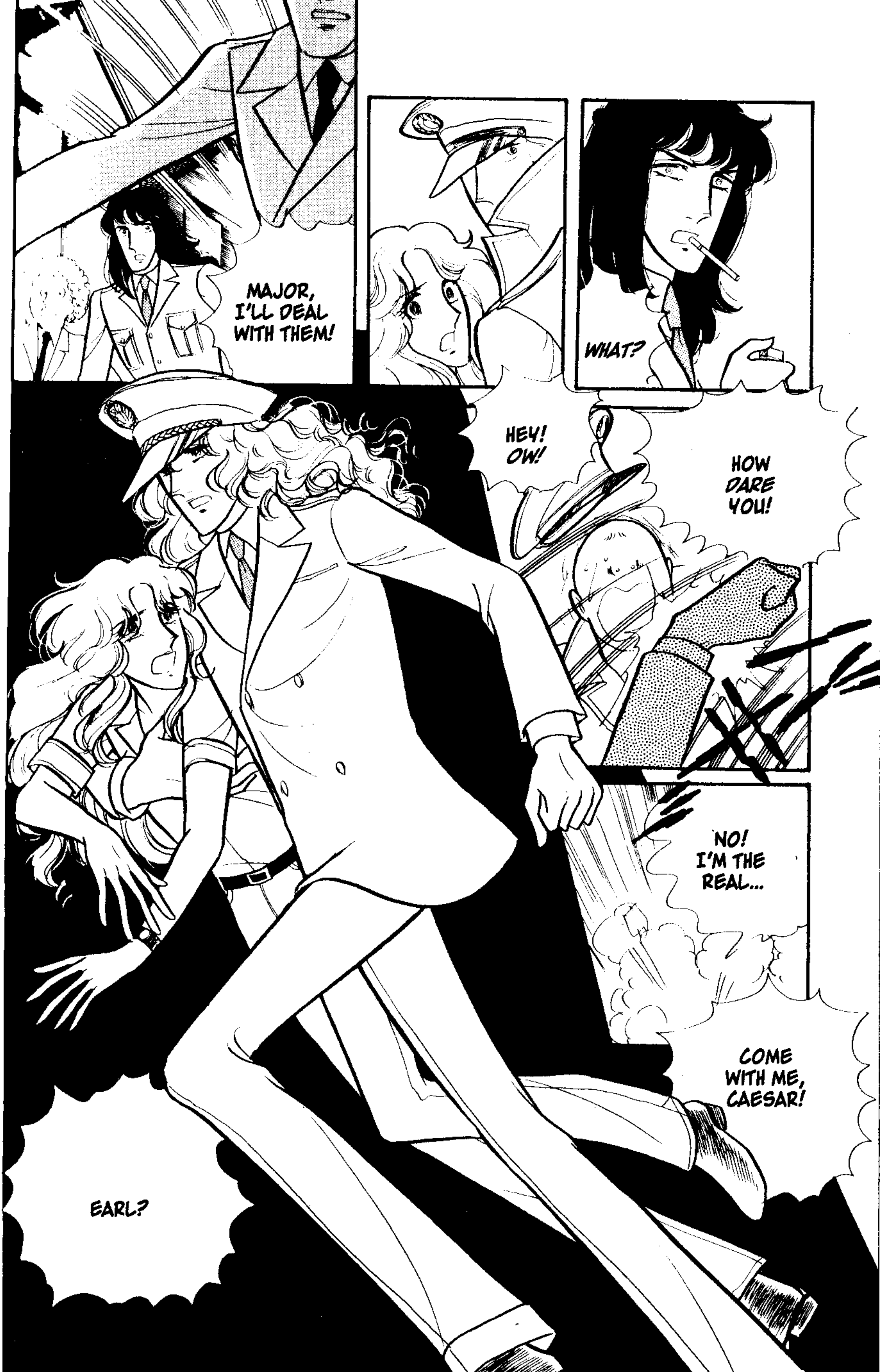

KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE EMBASSY AND THAT MAJOR. WE'RE STEALING CAESAR BACK.
THE TALKS HAVE BROKEN DOWN.
WHAT AN *HONOR.*
YOU'RE MY SWORN ENEMY.
GOOD.
I'LL JUST SAY THAT THE EARL IS, IN FACT, A SPY FOR THE OTHER SIDE AND THAT I TOOK YOU TO A SECURE PLACE FOR PROTECTION.
GO AHEAD.
PROFESSOR, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
NO. I WON'T GO. I'M *NOT* A GUINEA PIG!
I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE U.N. AS AN UTTER DISREGARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
GOOD. SEND A REGIMENT NOW.
MAJOR, WE TRACED THE CALL.
I'M TAKING CAESAR TO BONN.
WE'RE PRISONERS, TOO. MAYBE PERMANENTLY.
SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T HELP YOU. NOTHING WE TELL THE INSPECTOR CHANGES HIS MIND.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO BONN.
LEOPARD! SUGAR! HELP ME!

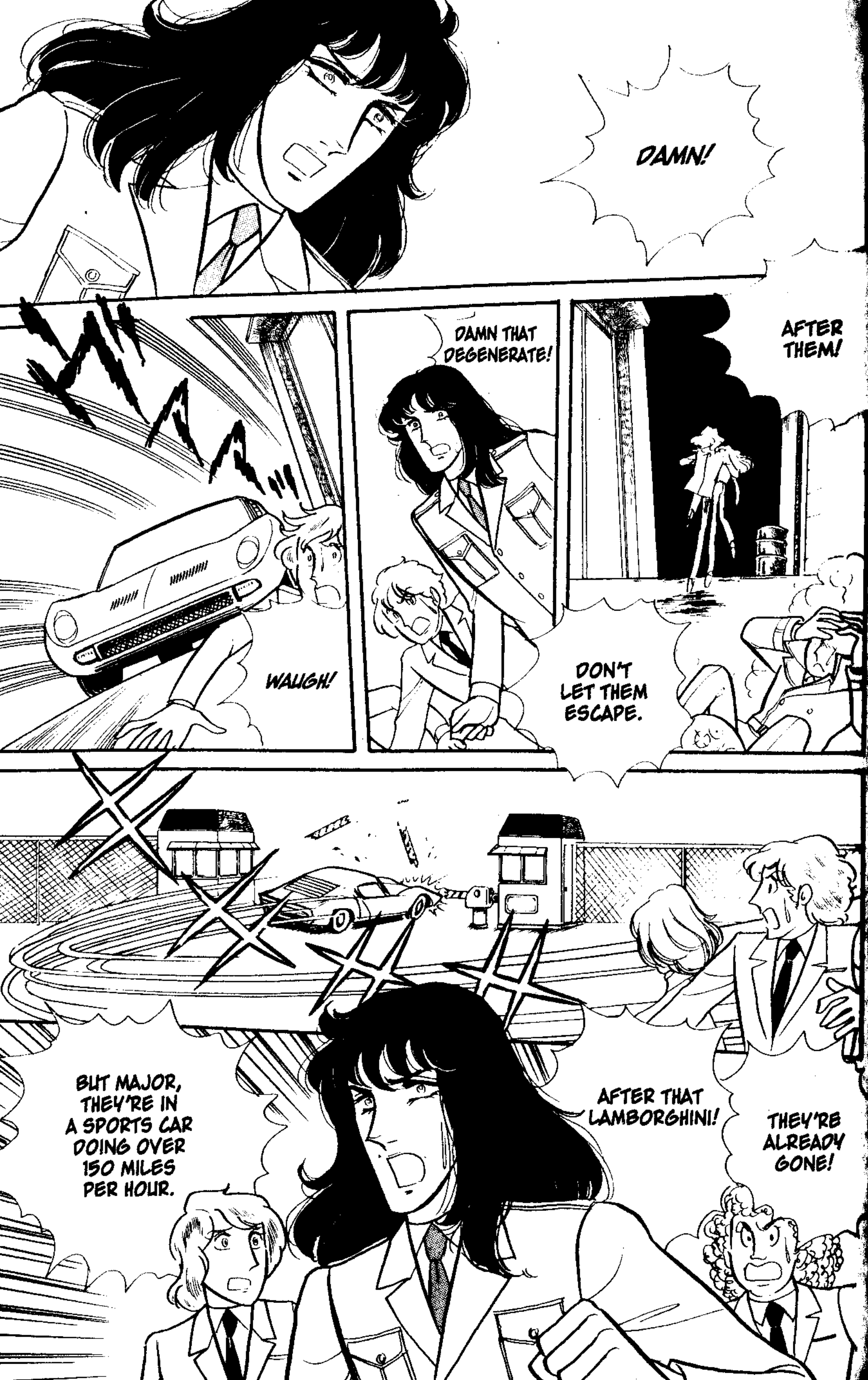

ALL RIGHT, WE START OPERATIONS.
THE MAJOR AND COMPANY ARE LEAVING.
REPORTING FROM THE EMBASSY.
ウオオオ…
STAY SHARP EVEN WHEN WE LAND IN BONN.
BUT THEN AGAIN, THEY'RE PROS.
MAJOR, A REPORT FROM LONDON. "EARL'S MANOR EMPTY."
A QUICK ESCAPE.
DON'T BLAME ME. BLAME MY HIGHER-UPS.
THIS IS JUST A MISSION.

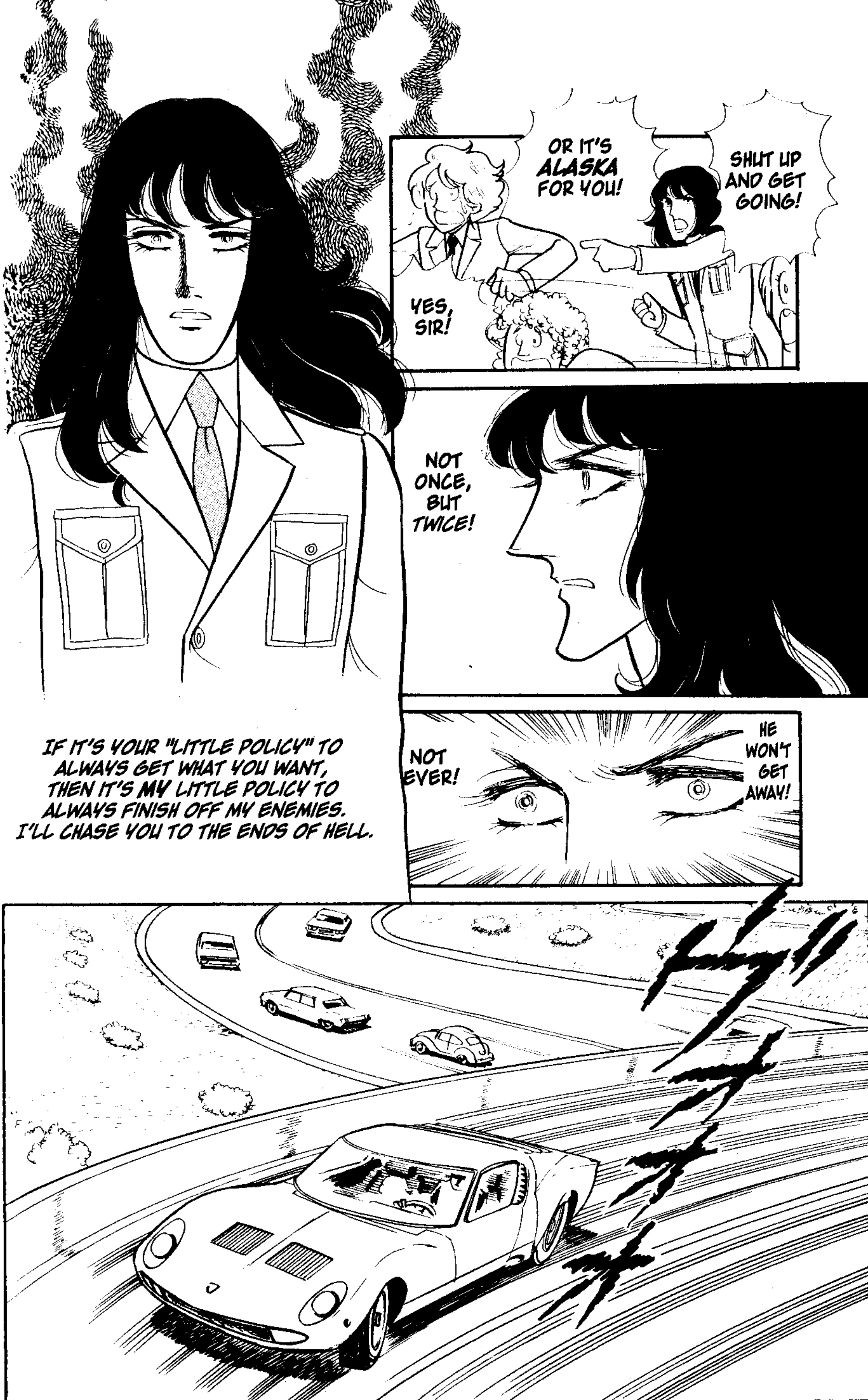

THEY'RE HERE TO PICK YOU UP.

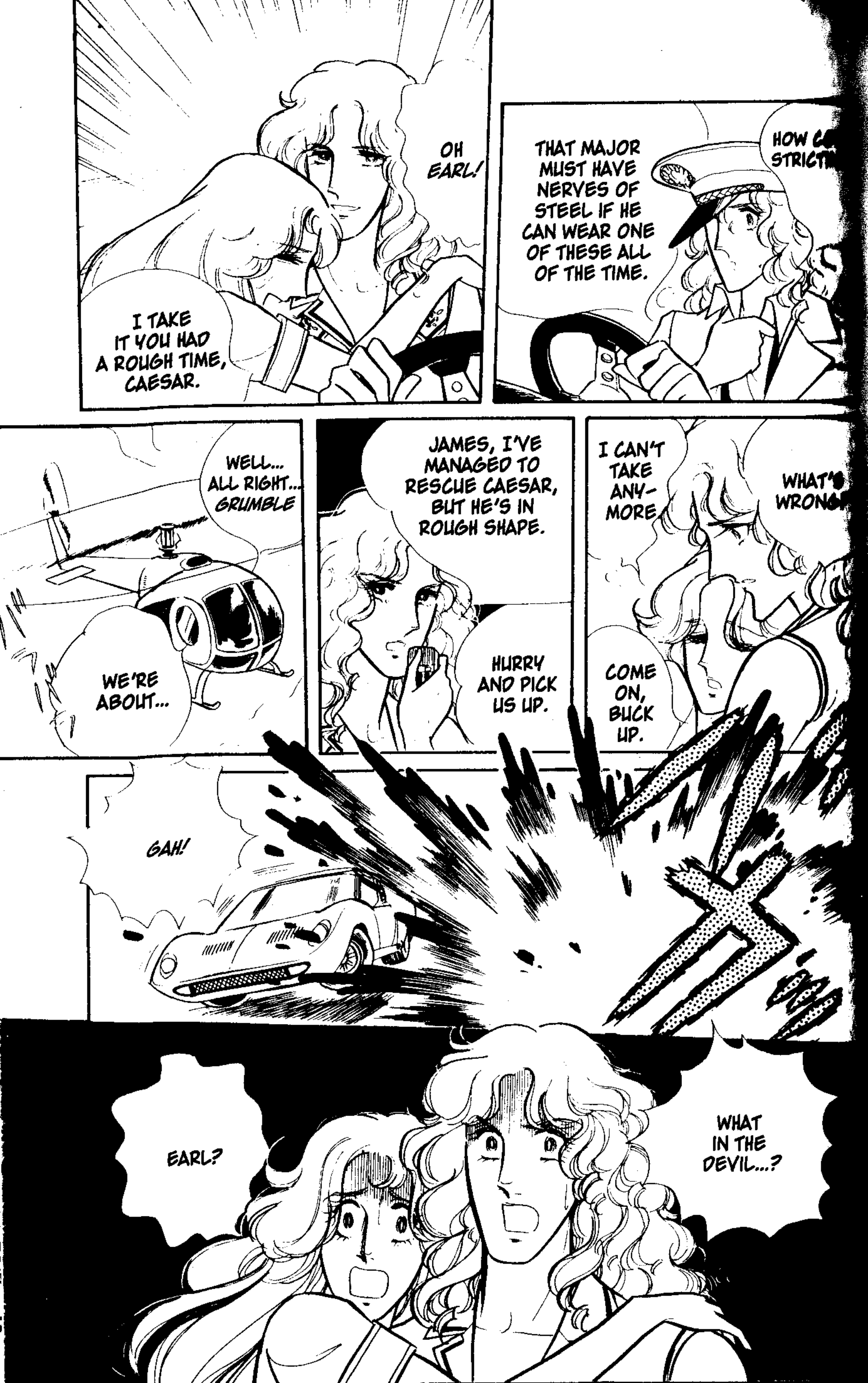

THIS WAY, HERR GABRIEL.
WELL DONE, MAJOR. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
I'M LIEUTENANT COLONEL OTTO REINHART.
AND THIS IS PROFESSOR ERLICH GUNTER.
WE'RE HERE TO TAKE CAESAR GABRIEL.
STOP!
STOP RIGHT THERE, COLONEL!
MAJOR, THIS IS...
TAKE OFF YOUR HAT.
TAKE IT OFF!

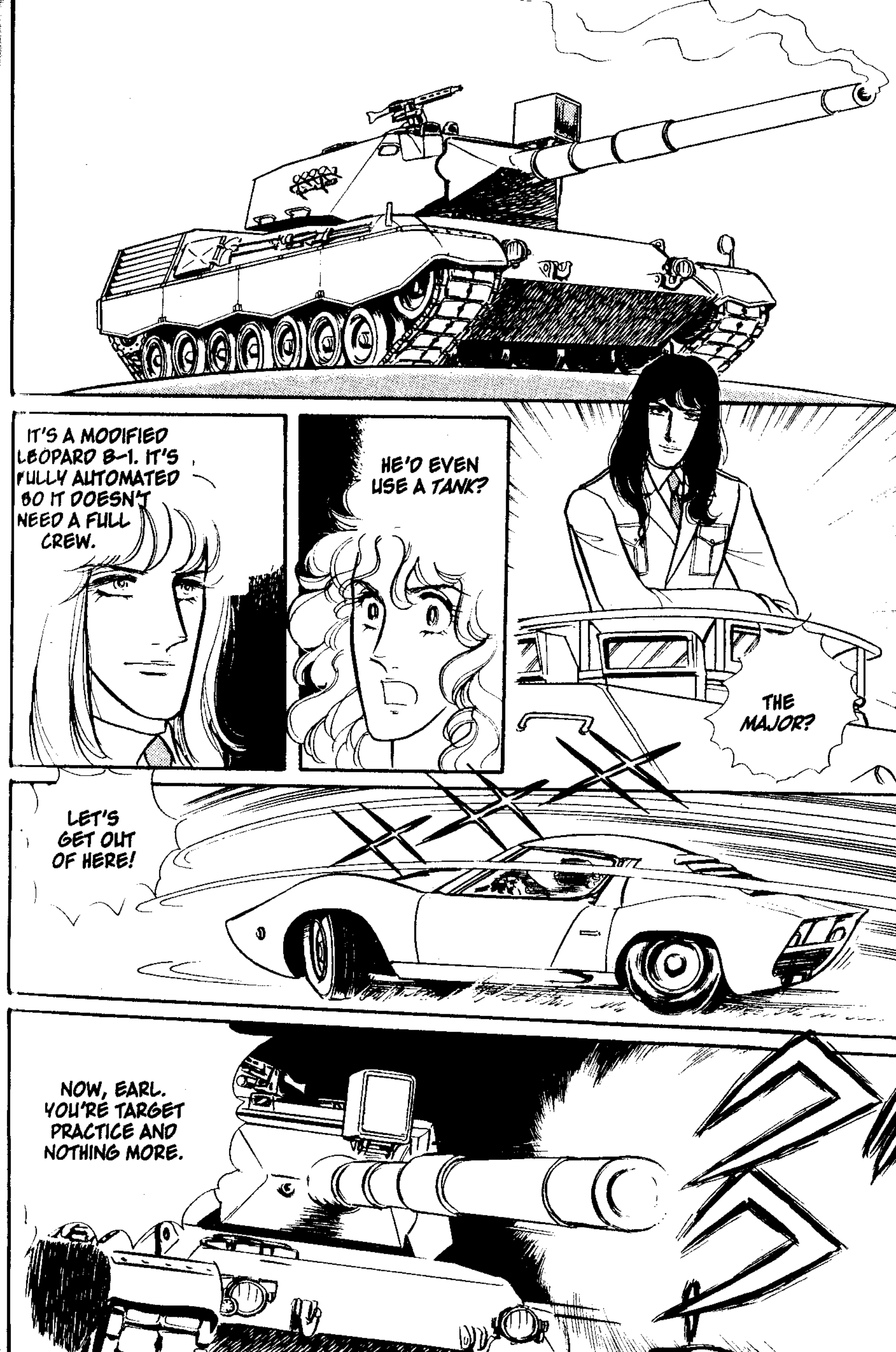

I WAS RUSHED TODAY.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SET MY TOUPEE.
A MAN SHOULDN'T BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT BEING BALD.
BUT... BUT...
ALL YOU DID WAS ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION.
IF YOU WERE MY SUBORDINATE, YOU'D BE POSTED IN ALASKA BY NOW.
STOP! STOP! THOSE TWO ARE IMPOSTORS!
I'M REINHART, THE REAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL!
THEY'RE EROICA'S MEN!

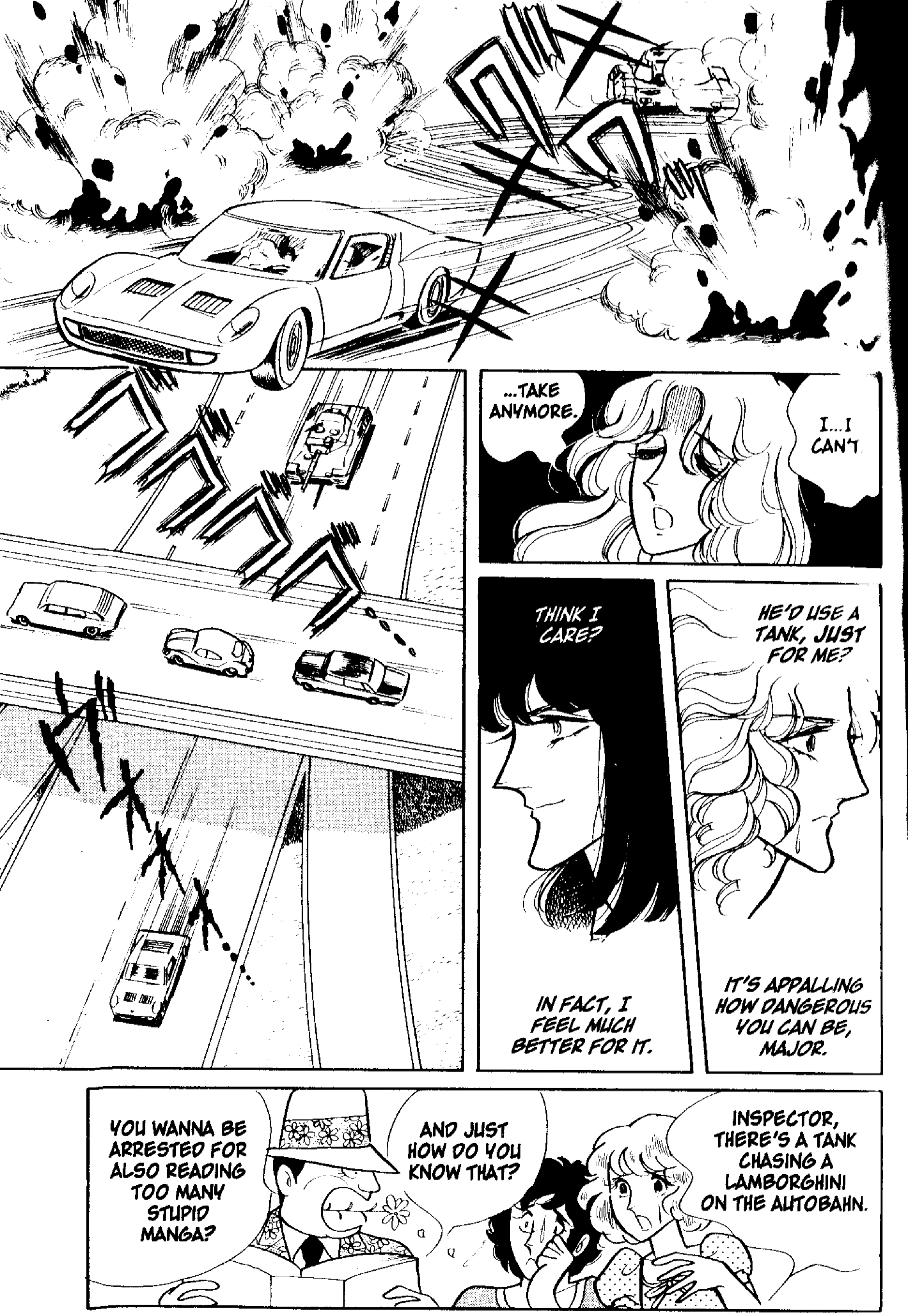

MAJOR, I'LL DEAL WITH THEM!
WHAT?
HEY! OW!
HOW DARE YOU!
NO! I'M THE REAL...
COME WITH ME, CAESAR!
EARL?

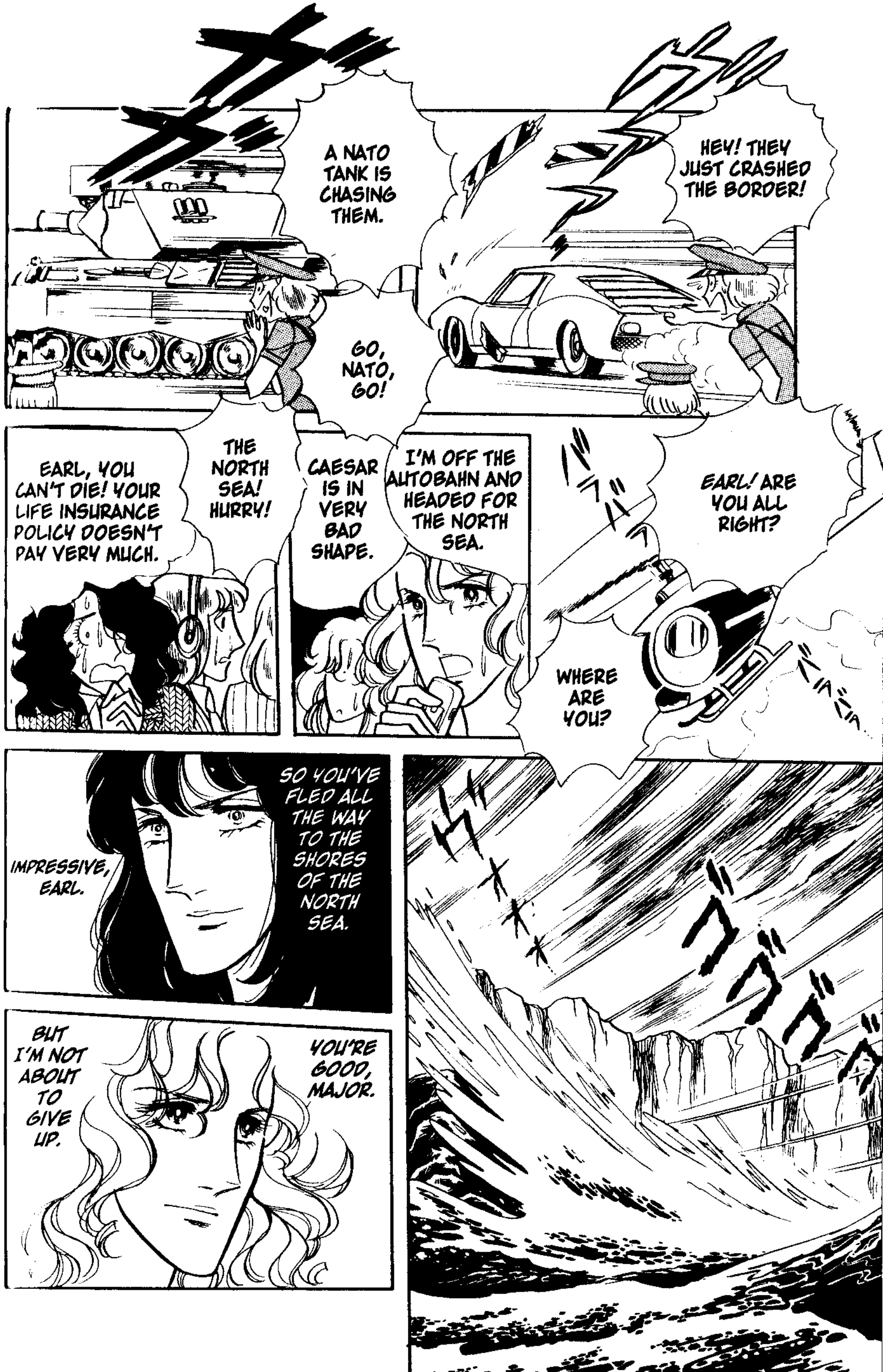

DAMN!
WAUGH!
DAMN THAT DEGENERATE!
AFTER THEM!
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE.
AFTER THAT LAMBORGHINI!
BUT MAJOR, THEY'RE IN A SPORTS CAR DOING OVER 150 MILES PER HOUR.
THEY'RE ALREADY GONE!

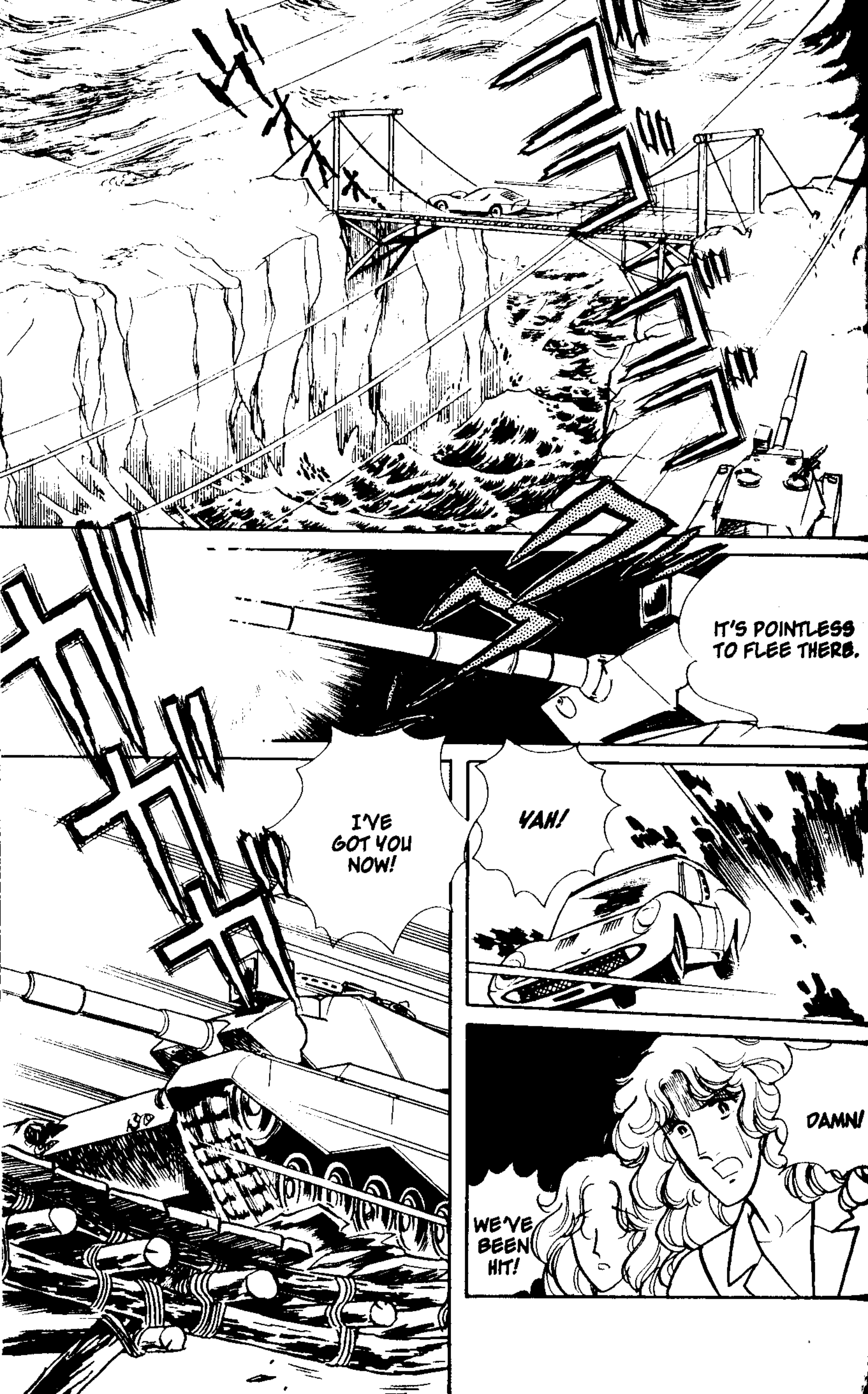

SHUT UP AND GET GOING!
OR IT'S *ALASKA* FOR YOU!
YES, SIR!
NOT ONCE, BUT *TWICE!*
HE WON'T GET AWAY!
NOT EVER!
IF IT'S YOUR "LITTLE POLICY" TO ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT, THEN IT'S **MY** LITTLE POLICY TO ALWAYS FINISH OFF MY ENEMIES. I'LL CHASE YOU TO THE ENDS OF HELL.

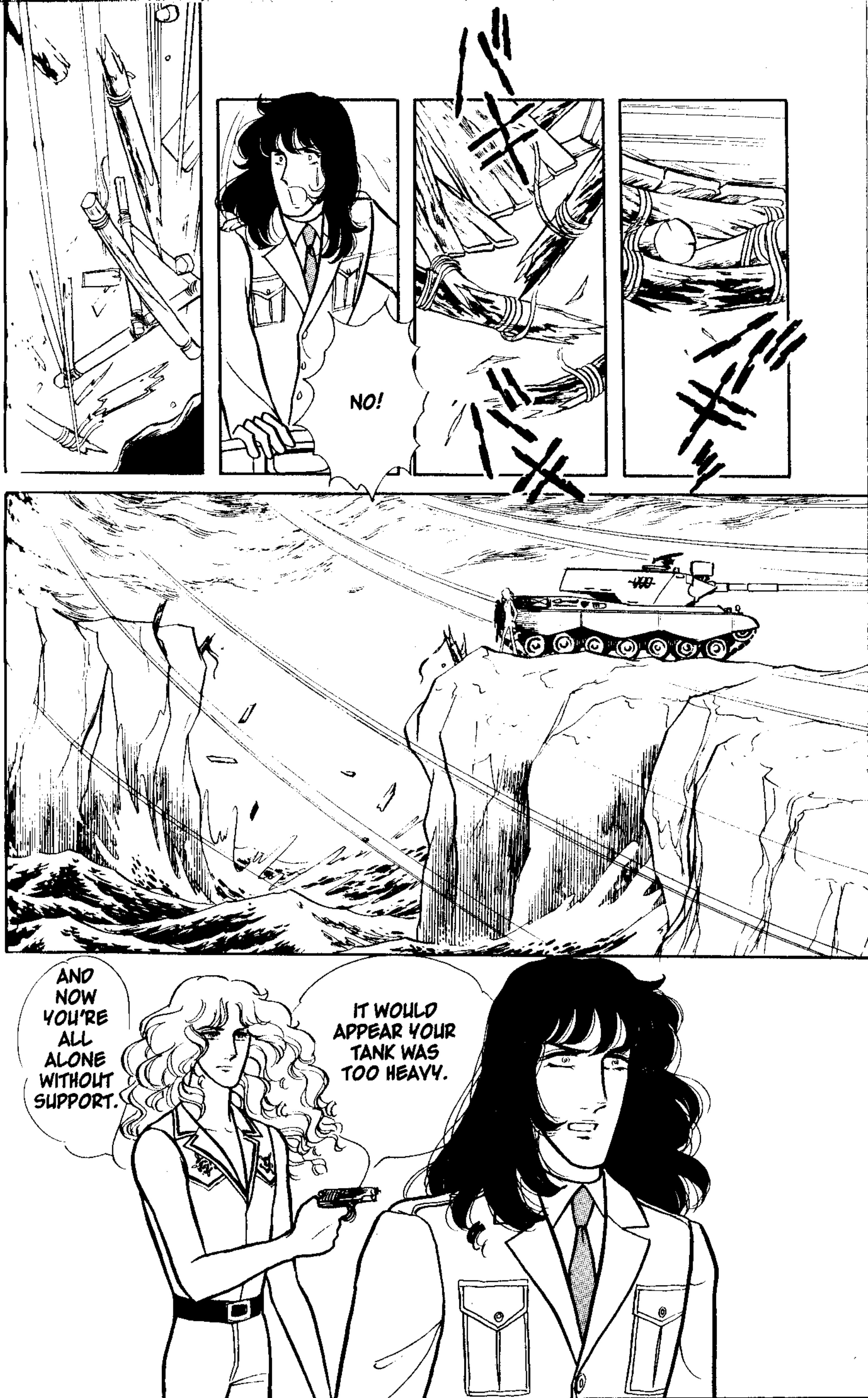

OH EARL!
I TAKE IT YOU HAD A ROUGH TIME, CAESAR.
THAT MAJOR MUST HAVE NERVES OF STEEL IF HE CAN WEAR ONE OF THESE ALL OF THE TIME.
HOW C STRICT
WELL... ALL RIGHT... GRUMBLE
WE'RE ABOUT...
JAMES, I'VE MANAGED TO RESCUE CAESAR, BUT HE'S IN ROUGH SHAPE.
HURRY AND PICK US UP.
I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE
WHAT'S WRONG
COME ON, BUCK UP.
GAH!
EARL?
WHAT IN THE DEVIL...?

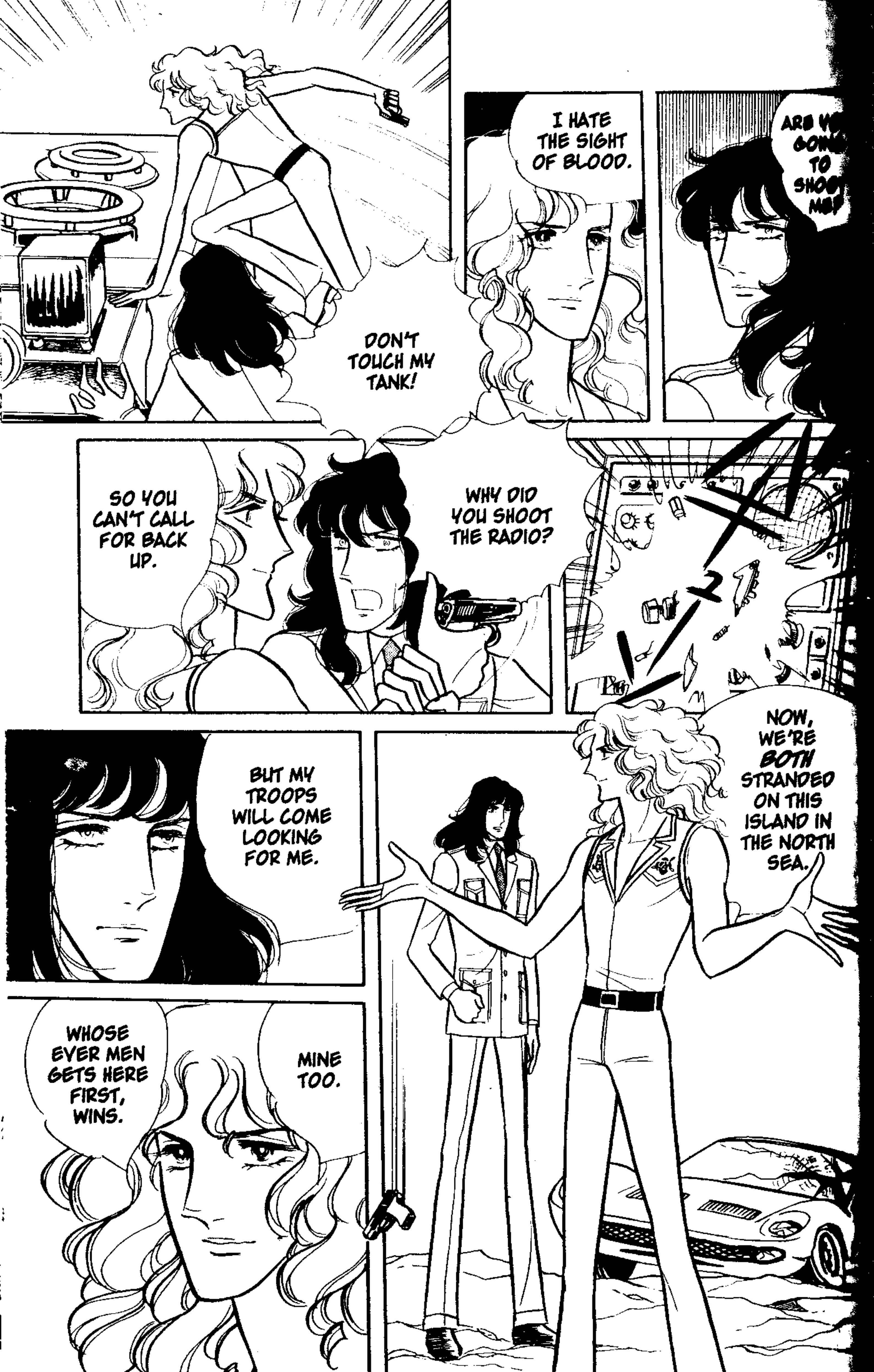

THE MAJOR?
HE'D EVEN USE A *TANK?*
IT'S A MODIFIED LEOPARD B-1. IT'S FULLY AUTOMATED SO IT DOESN'T NEED A FULL CREW.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NOW, EARL. YOU'RE TARGET PRACTICE AND NOTHING MORE.

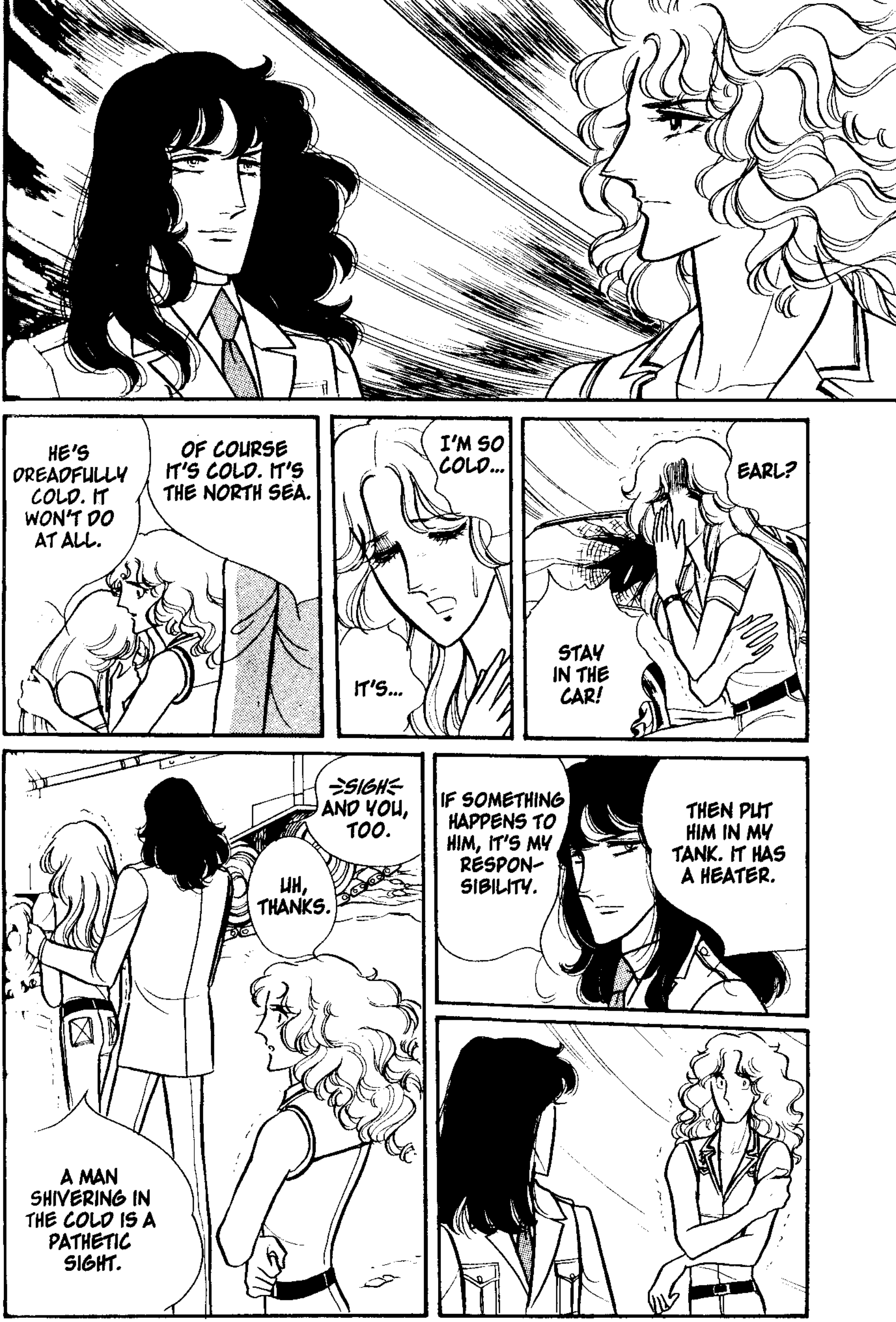

I...I CAN'T
...TAKE ANYMORE.
HE'D USE A TANK, JUST FOR ME?
IT'S APPALLING HOW DANGEROUS YOU CAN BE, MAJOR.
THINK I CARE?
IN FACT, I FEEL MUCH BETTER FOR IT.
INSPECTOR, THERE'S A TANK CHASING A LAMBORGHINI ON THE AUTOBAHN.
AND JUST HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU WANNA BE ARRESTED FOR ALSO READING TOO MANY STUPID MANGA?

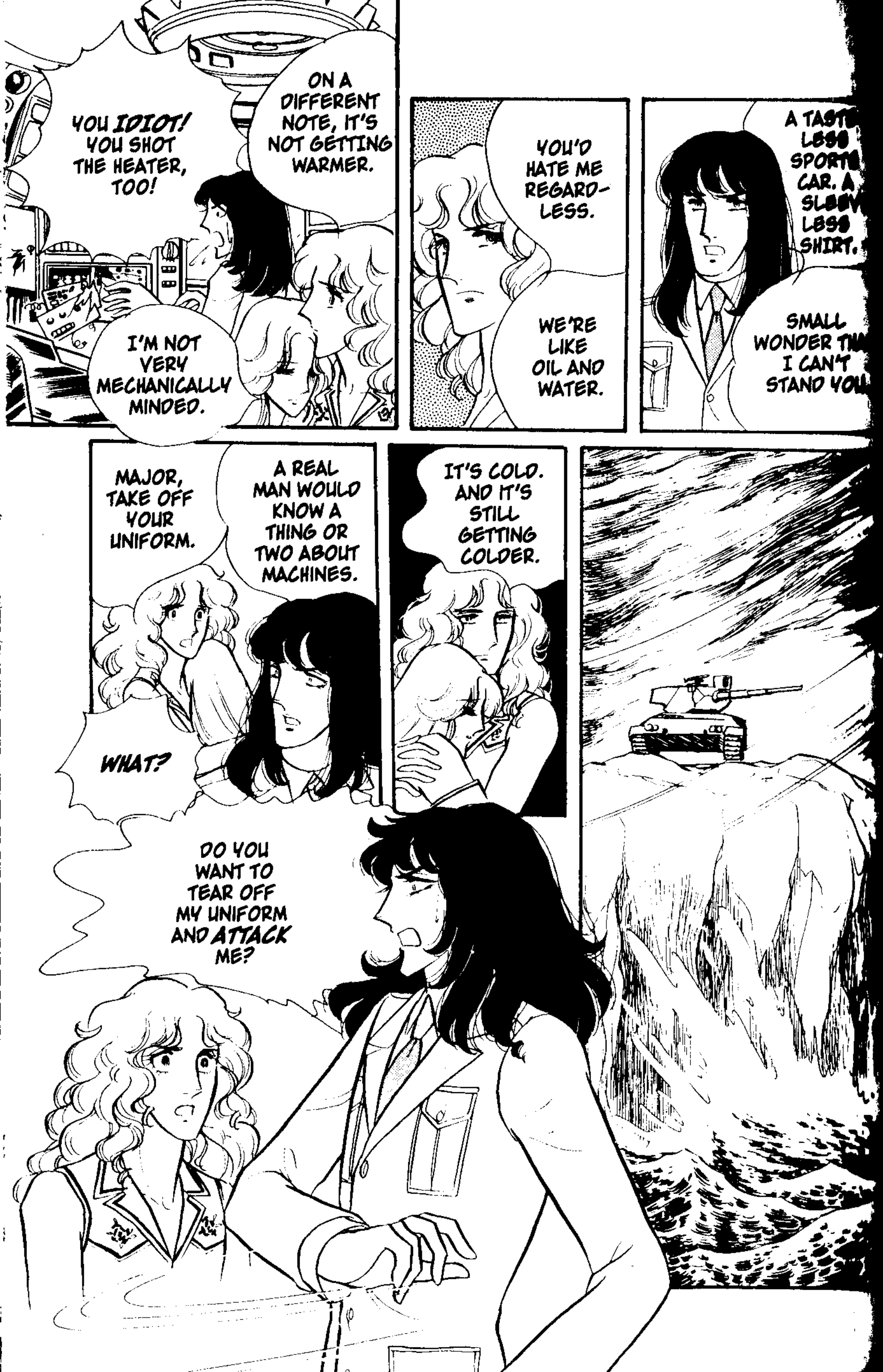

HEY! THEY JUST CRASHED THE BORDER!
A NATO TANK IS CHASING THEM.
GO, NATO, GO!
EARL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M OFF THE AUTOBAHN AND HEADED FOR THE NORTH SEA.
CAESAR IS IN VERY BAD SHAPE.
THE NORTH SEA! HURRY!
EARL, YOU CAN'T DIE! YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY DOESN'T PAY VERY MUCH.
SO YOU'VE FLED ALL THE WAY TO THE SHORES OF THE NORTH SEA.
IMPRESSIVE, EARL.
YOU'RE GOOD, MAJOR.
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP.

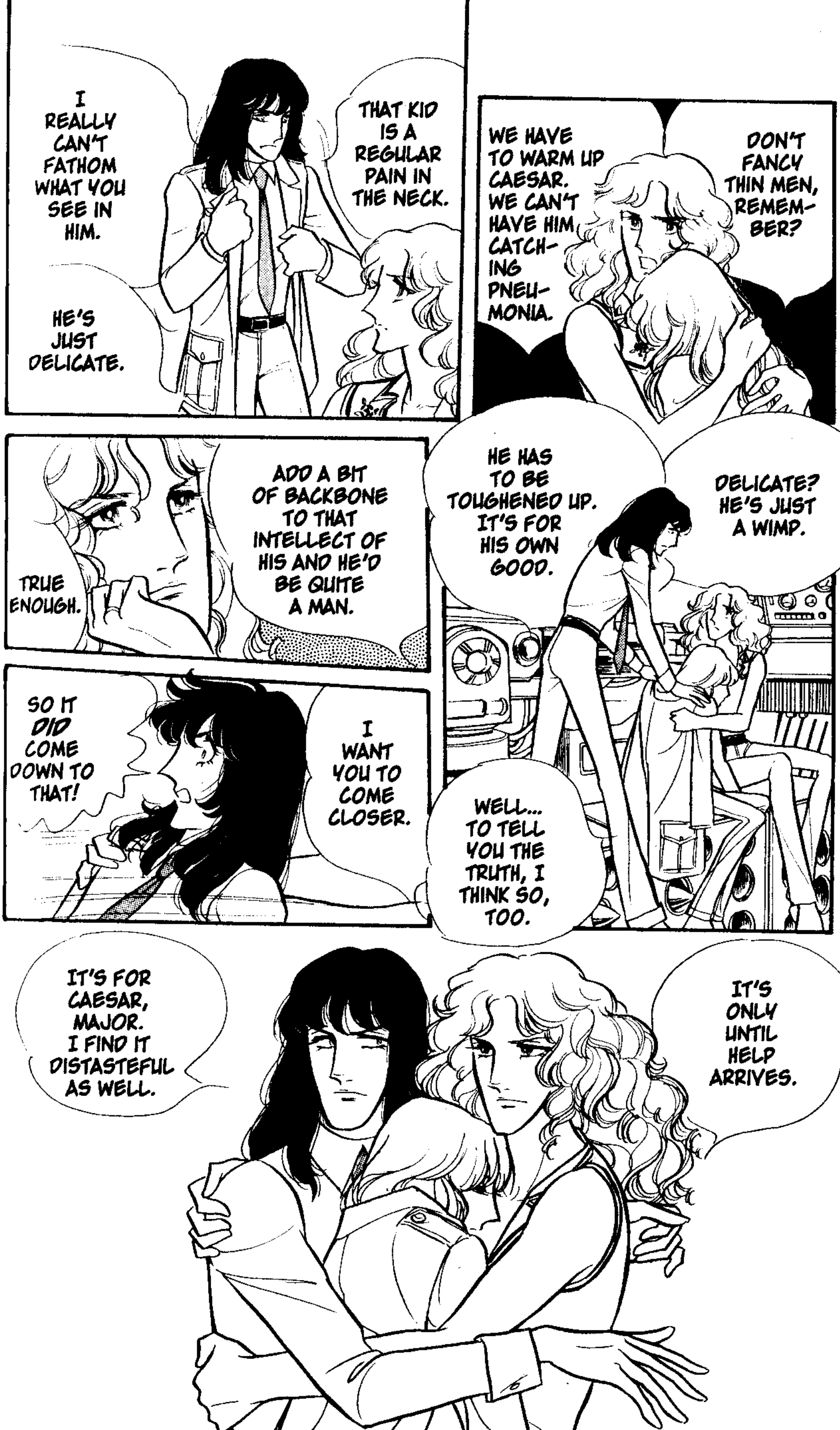

IT'S POINTLESS TO FLEE THERE.
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
YAH!
DAMN!
WE'VE BEEN HIT!

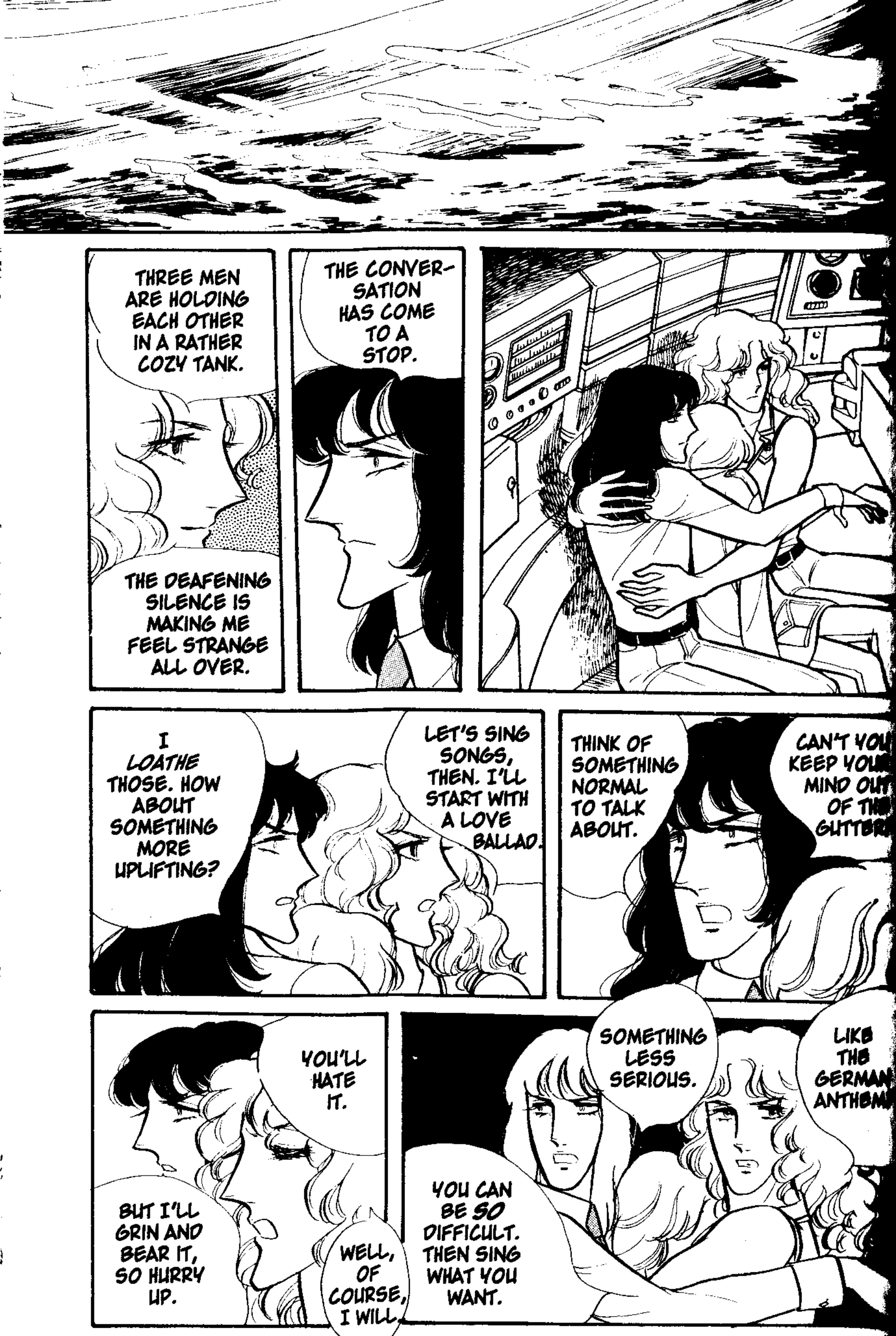

NO!
IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR TANK WAS TOO HEAVY.
AND NOW YOU'RE ALL ALONE WITHOUT SUPPORT.

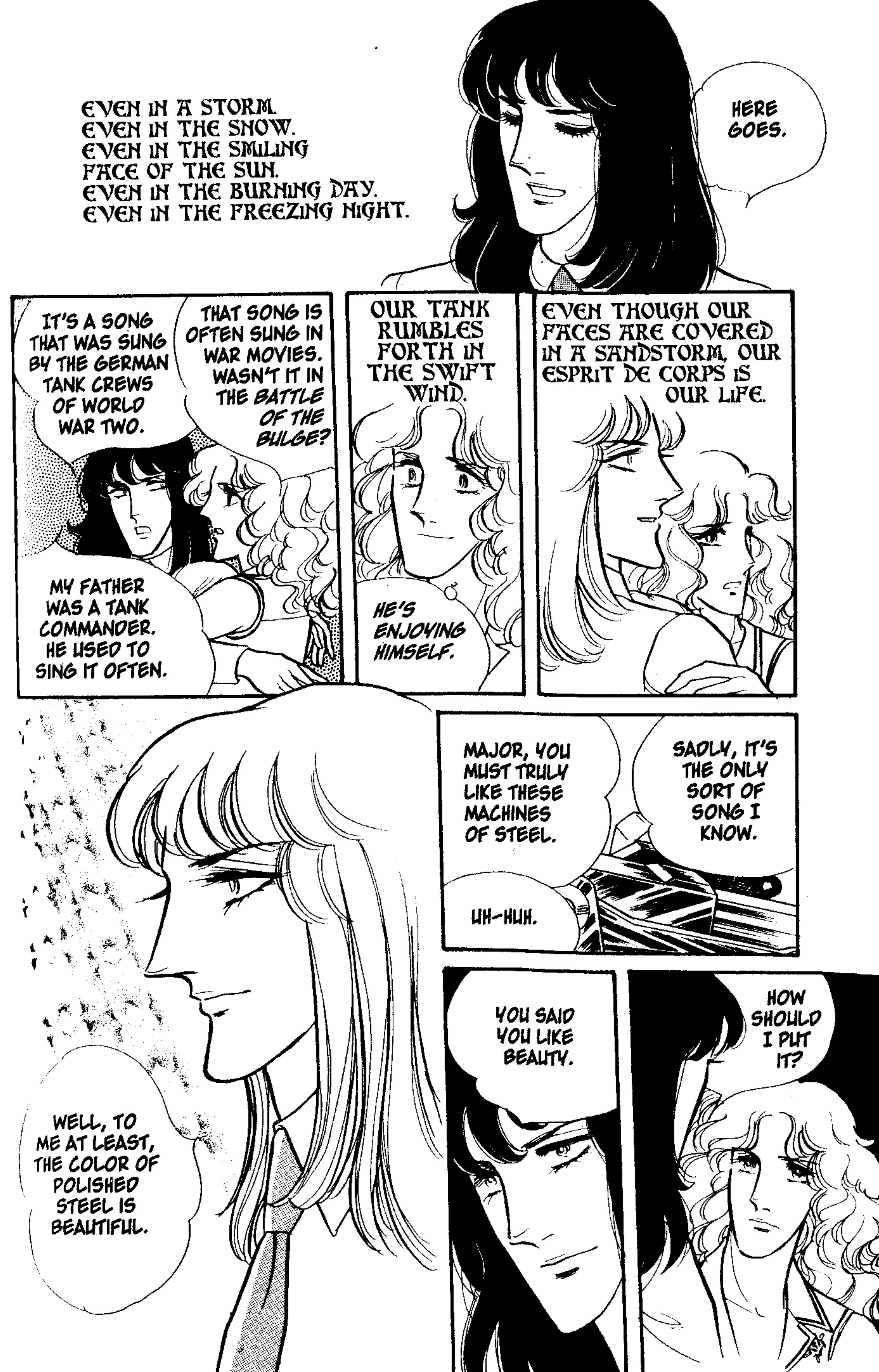

ARE W GOIN TO SHOO ME?
I HATE THE SIGHT OF BLOOD.
DON'T TOUCH MY TANK!
WHY DID YOU SHOOT THE RADIO?
SO YOU CAN'T CALL FOR BACK UP.
NOW, WE'RE *BOTH* STRANDED ON THIS ISLAND IN THE NORTH SEA.
BUT MY TROOPS WILL COME LOOKING FOR ME.
MINE TOO.
WHOSE EVER MEN GETS HERE FIRST, WINS.

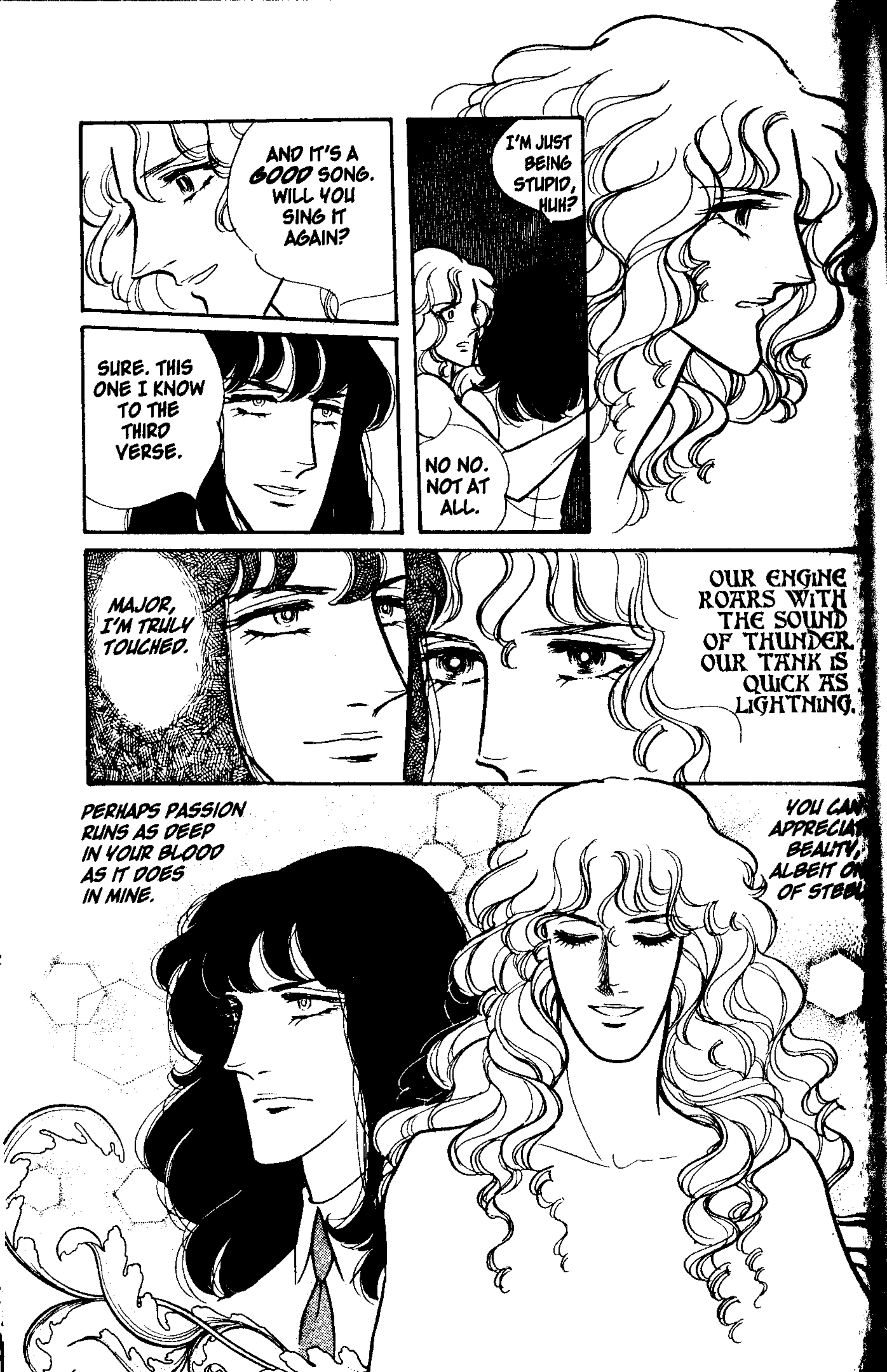

EARL?
STAY IN THE CAR!
I'M SO COLD...
IT'S...
OF COURSE IT'S COLD. IT'S THE NORTH SEA.
HE'S DREADFULLY COLD. IT WON'T DO AT ALL.
THEN PUT HIM IN MY TANK. IT HAS A HEATER.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY.
⇒SIGH⇐ AND YOU, TOO.
UH, THANKS.
A MAN SHIVERING IN THE COLD IS A PATHETIC SIGHT.

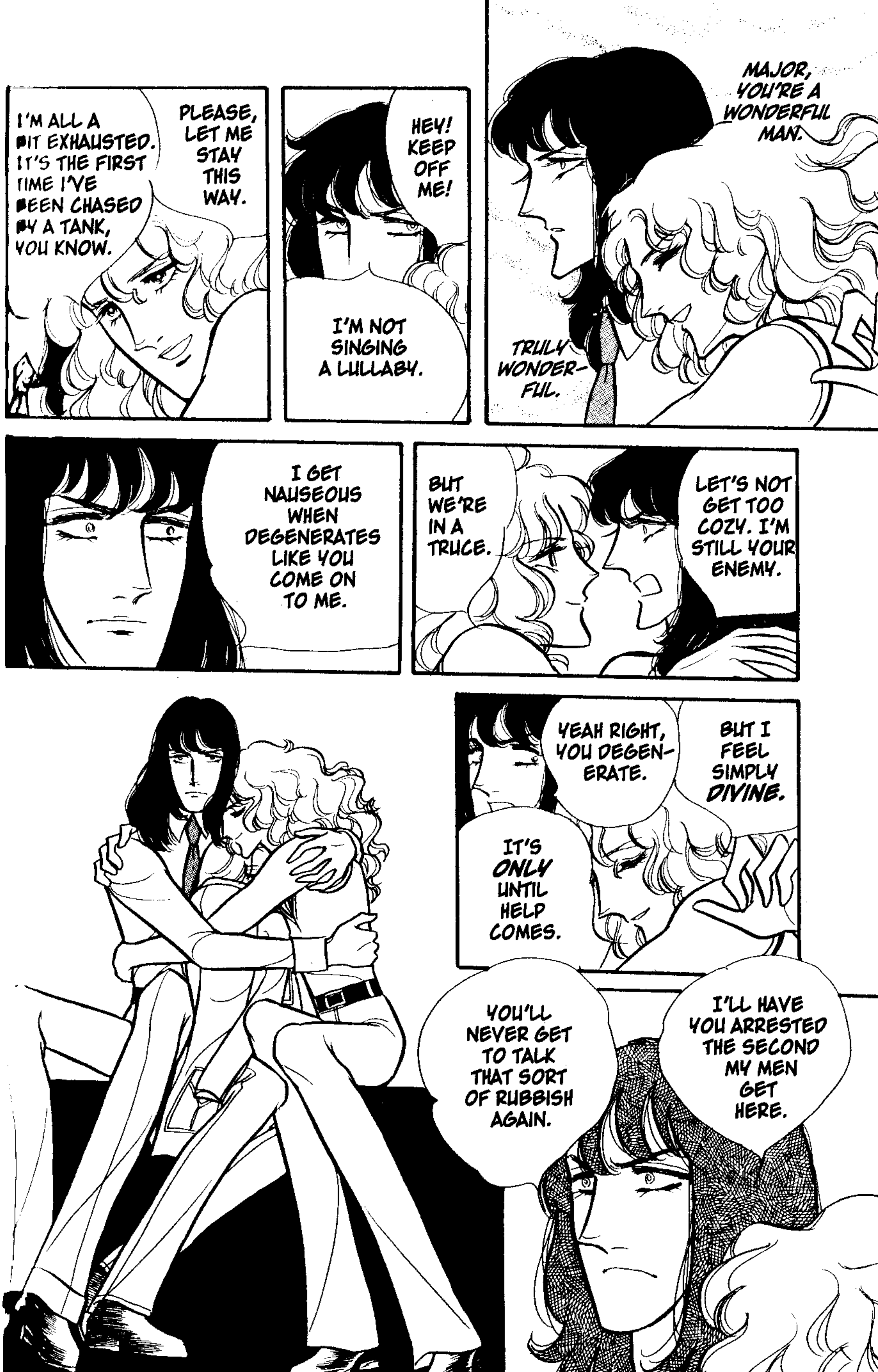

YOU IDIOT! YOU SHOT THE HEATER, TOO!
I'M NOT VERY MECHANICALLY MINDED.
ON A DIFFERENT NOTE, IT'S NOT GETTING WARMER.
YOU'D HATE ME REGARDLESS.
WE'RE LIKE OIL AND WATER.
A TAST LESS SPORT CAR. A SLEEV LESS SHIRT.
SMALL WONDER TH I CAN'T STAND YO
MAJOR, TAKE OFF YOUR UNIFORM.
A REAL MAN WOULD KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT MACHINES.
WHAT?
IT'S COLD. AND IT'S STILL GETTING COLDER.
DO YOU WANT TO TEAR OFF MY UNIFORM AND ATTACK ME?

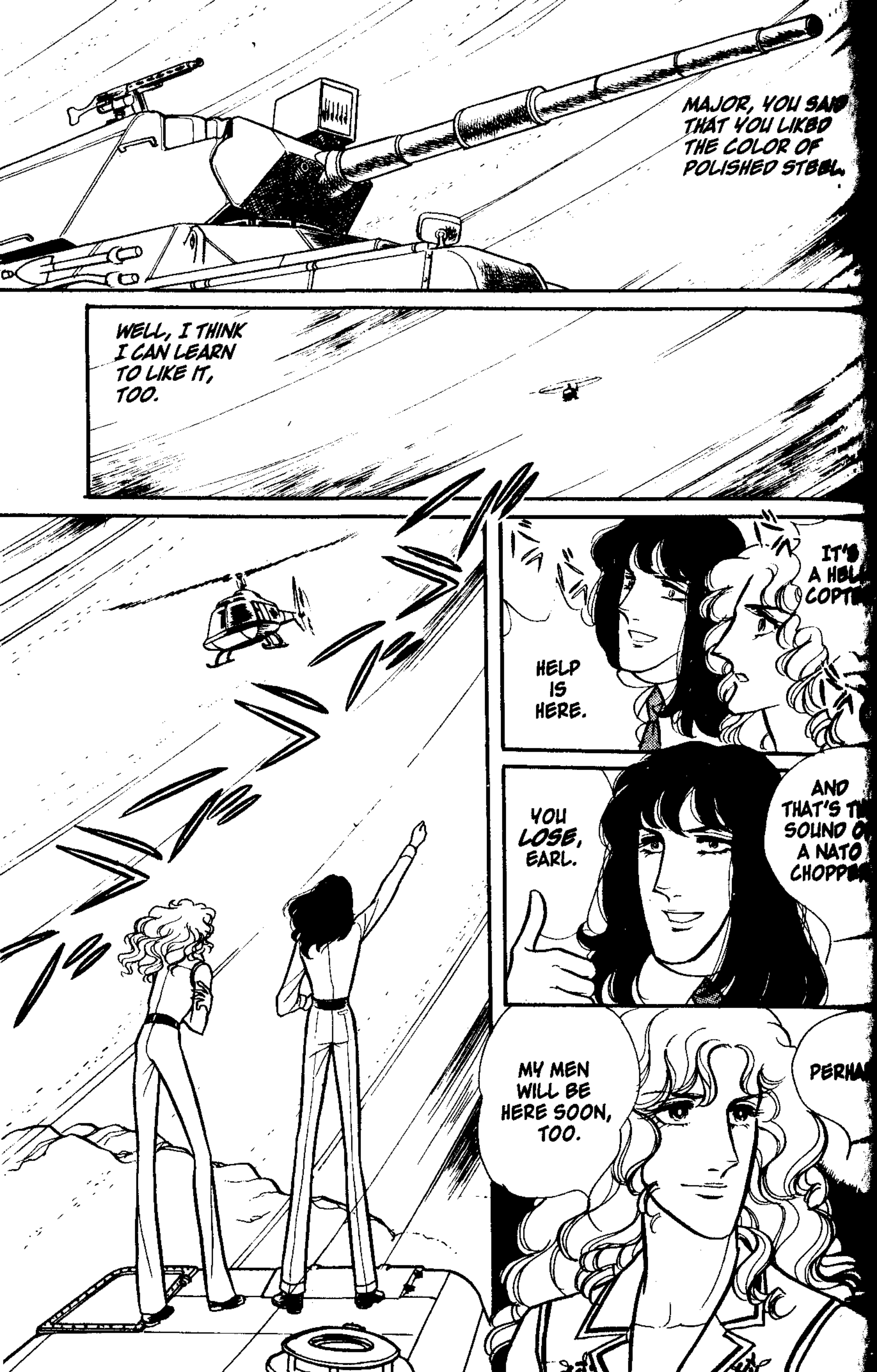

DON'T FANCY THIN MEN, REMEMBER?
WE HAVE TO WARM UP CAESAR. WE CAN'T HAVE HIM CATCHING PNEUMONIA.
THAT KID IS A REGULAR PAIN IN THE NECK.
I REALLY CAN'T FATHOM WHAT YOU SEE IN HIM.
HE'S JUST DELICATE.
DELICATE? HE'S JUST A WIMP.
HE HAS TO BE TOUGHENED UP. IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD.
WELL... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I THINK SO, TOO.
ADD A BIT OF BACKBONE TO THAT INTELLECT OF HIS AND HE'D BE QUITE A MAN.
TRUE ENOUGH.
I WANT YOU TO COME CLOSER.
SO IT *DID* COME DOWN TO THAT!
IT'S ONLY UNTIL HELP ARRIVES.
IT'S FOR CAESAR, MAJOR. I FIND IT DISTASTEFUL AS WELL.

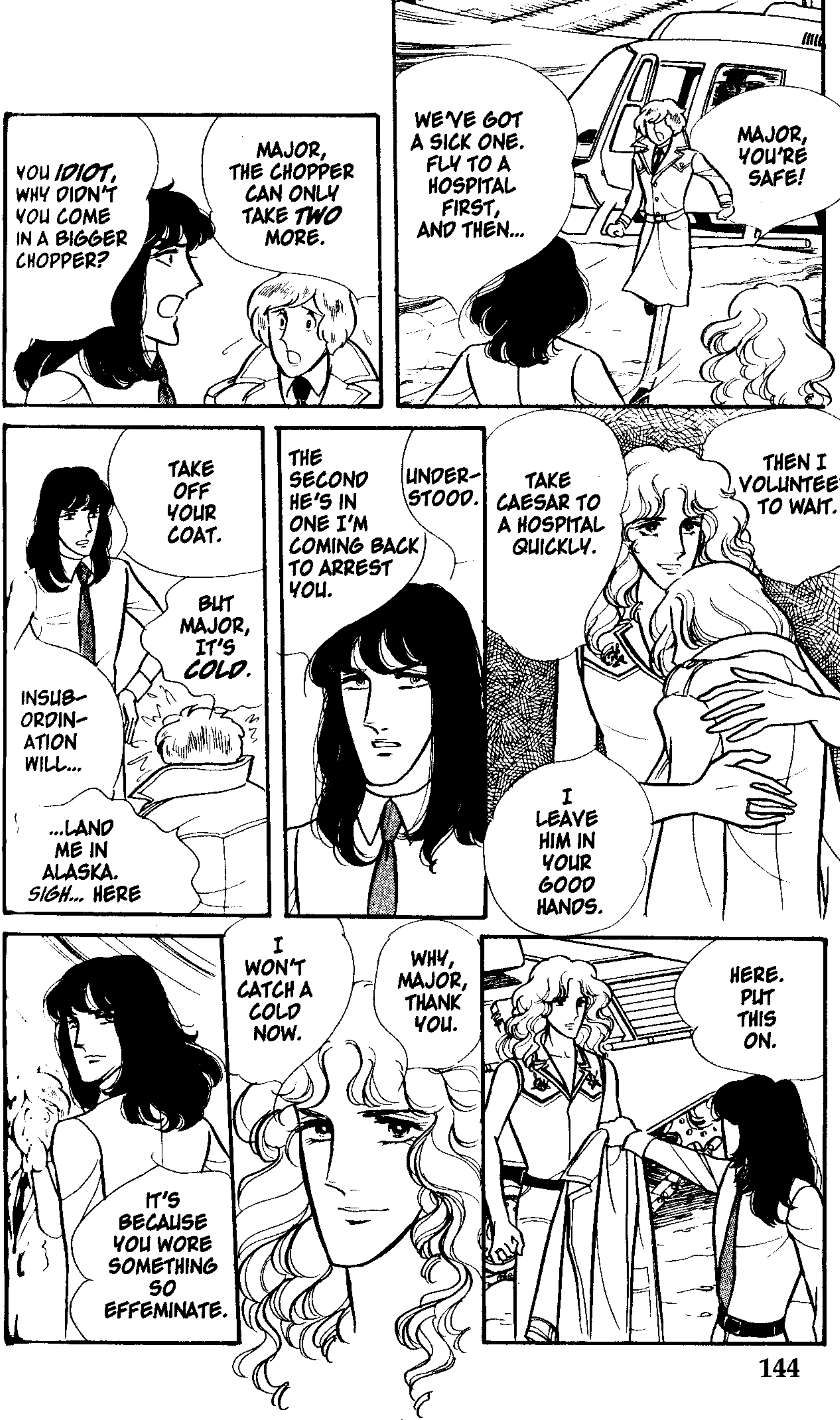

THE CONVERSATION HAS COME TO A STOP.
THREE MEN ARE HOLDING EACH OTHER IN A RATHER COZY TANK.
THE DEAFENING SILENCE IS MAKING ME FEEL STRANGE ALL OVER.
CAN'T YOU KEEP YOU MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER
THINK OF SOMETHING NORMAL TO TALK ABOUT.
LET'S SING SONGS, THEN. I'LL START WITH A LOVE BALLAD.
I *LOATHE* THOSE. HOW ABOUT SOMETHING MORE UPLIFTING?
LIKE THE GERMAN ANTHEM
SOMETHING LESS SERIOUS.
YOU CAN BE *SO* DIFFICULT. THEN SING WHAT YOU WANT.
WELL, OF COURSE, I WILL.
YOU'LL HATE IT.
BUT I'LL GRIN AND BEAR IT, SO HURRY UP.

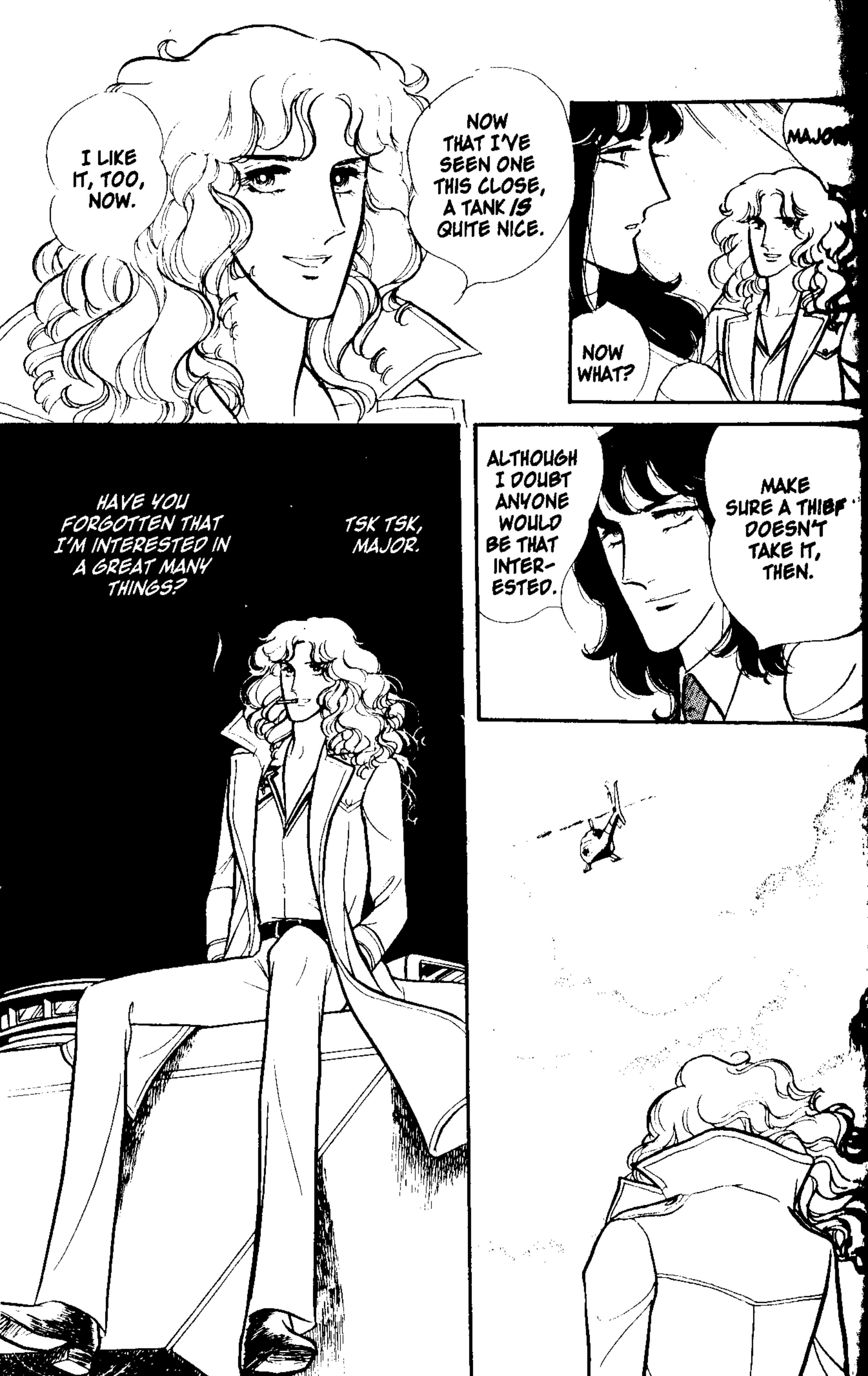

HERE GOES.
EVEN IN A STORM
EVEN IN THE SNOW.
EVEN IN THE SMILING
FACE OF THE SUN.
EVEN IN THE BURNING DAY.
EVEN IN THE FREEZING NIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH OUR FACES ARE COVERED IN A SANDSTORM, OUR ESPRIT DE CORPS IS OUR LIFE.
OUR TANK RUMBLES FORTH IN THE SWIFT WIND.
HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF.
THAT SONG IS OFTEN SUNG IN WAR MOVIES. WASN'T IT IN THE *BATTLE OF THE BULGE?*
IT'S A SONG THAT WAS SUNG BY THE GERMAN TANK CREWS OF WORLD WAR TWO.
MY FATHER WAS A TANK COMMANDER. HE USED TO SING IT OFTEN.
SADLY, IT'S THE ONLY SORT OF SONG I KNOW.
MAJOR, YOU MUST TRULY LIKE THESE MACHINES OF STEEL.
UH-HUH.
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
YOU SAID YOU LIKE BEAUTY.
WELL, TO ME AT LEAST, THE COLOR OF POLISHED STEEL IS BEAUTIFUL.

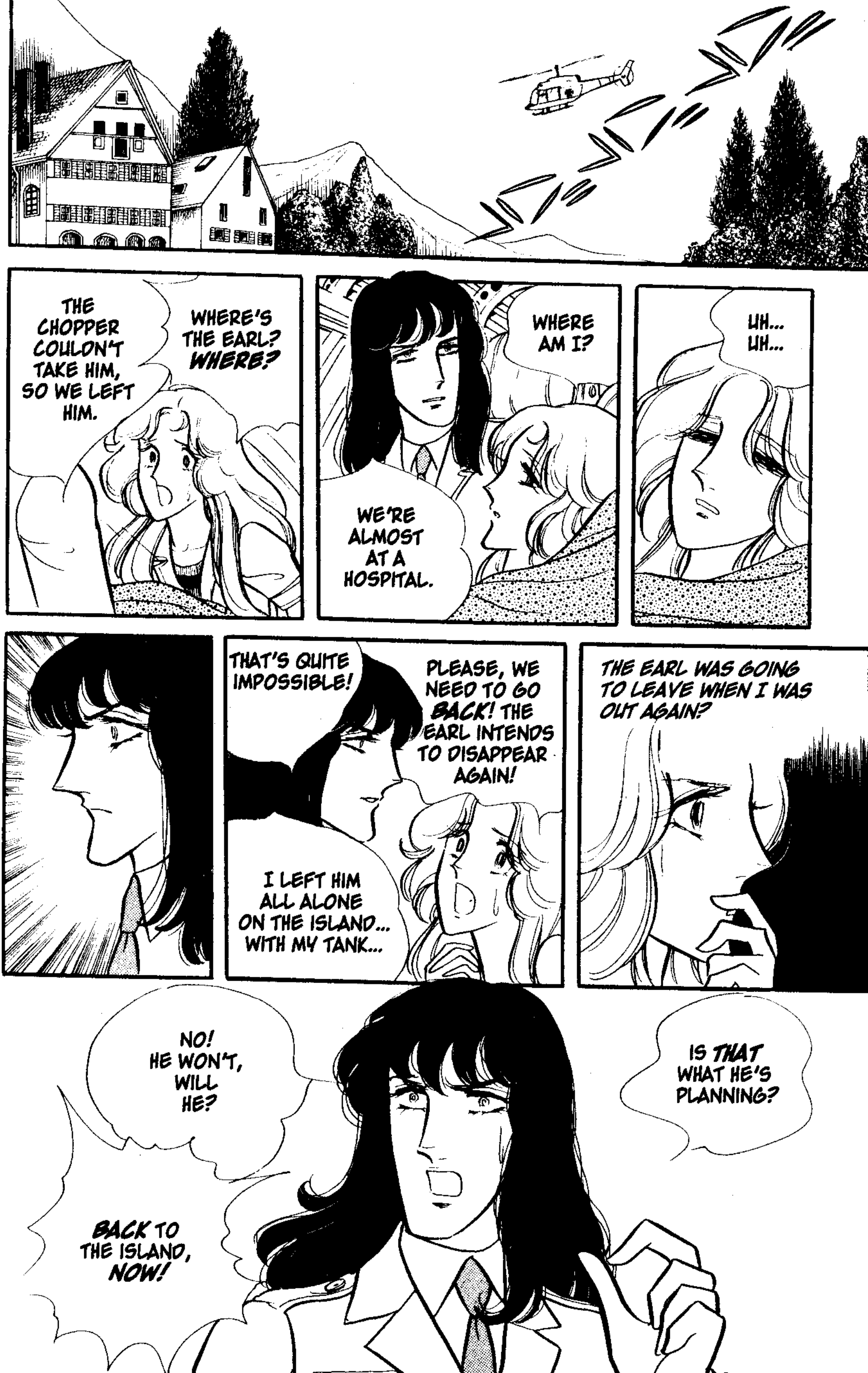

AND IT'S A GOOD SONG. WILL YOU SING IT AGAIN?
SURE. THIS ONE I KNOW TO THE THIRD VERSE.
I'M JUST BEING STUPID, HUH?
NO NO. NOT AT ALL.
OUR ENGINE ROARS WITH THE SOUND OF THUNDER. OUR TANK IS QUICK AS LIGHTNING.
MAJOR, I'M TRULY TOUCHED.
YOU CAN APPRECIA BEAUTY, ALBEIT O OF STEE
PERHAPS PASSION RUNS AS DEEP IN YOUR BLOOD AS IT DOES IN MINE.

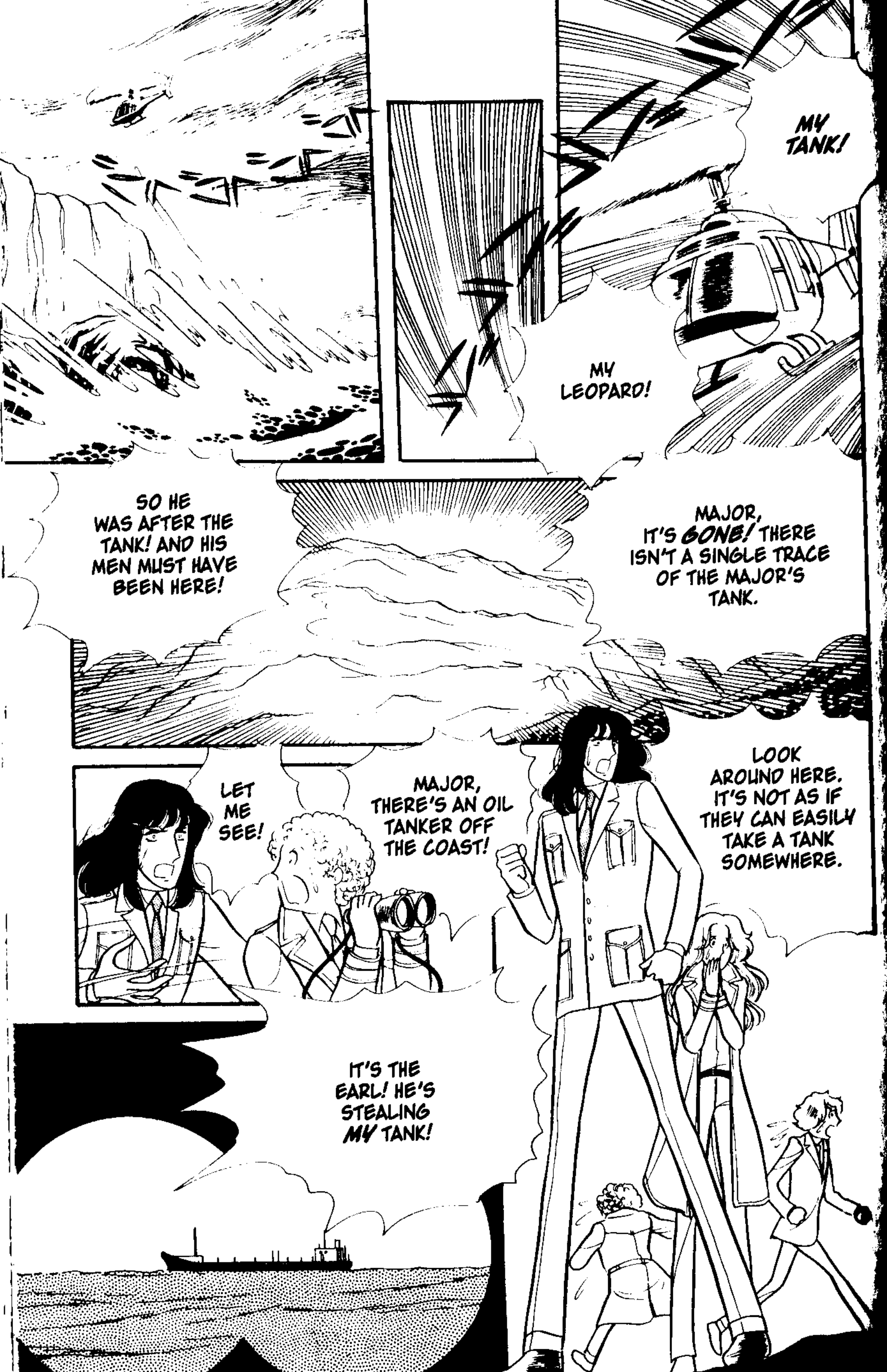

MAJOR, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MAN.
TRULY WONDERFUL.
HEY! KEEP OFF ME!
I'M NOT SINGING A LULLABY.
PLEASE, LET ME STAY THIS WAY.
I'M ALL A BIT EXHAUSTED. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN CHASED BY A TANK, YOU KNOW.
LET'S NOT GET TOO COZY. I'M STILL YOUR ENEMY.
BUT WE'RE IN A TRUCE.
I GET NAUSEOUS WHEN DEGENERATES LIKE YOU COME ON TO ME.
BUT I FEEL SIMPLY *DIVINE.*
YEAH RIGHT, YOU DEGENERATE.
IT'S *ONLY* UNTIL HELP COMES.
I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED THE SECOND MY MEN GET HERE.
YOU'LL NEVER GET TO TALK THAT SORT OF RUBBISH AGAIN.

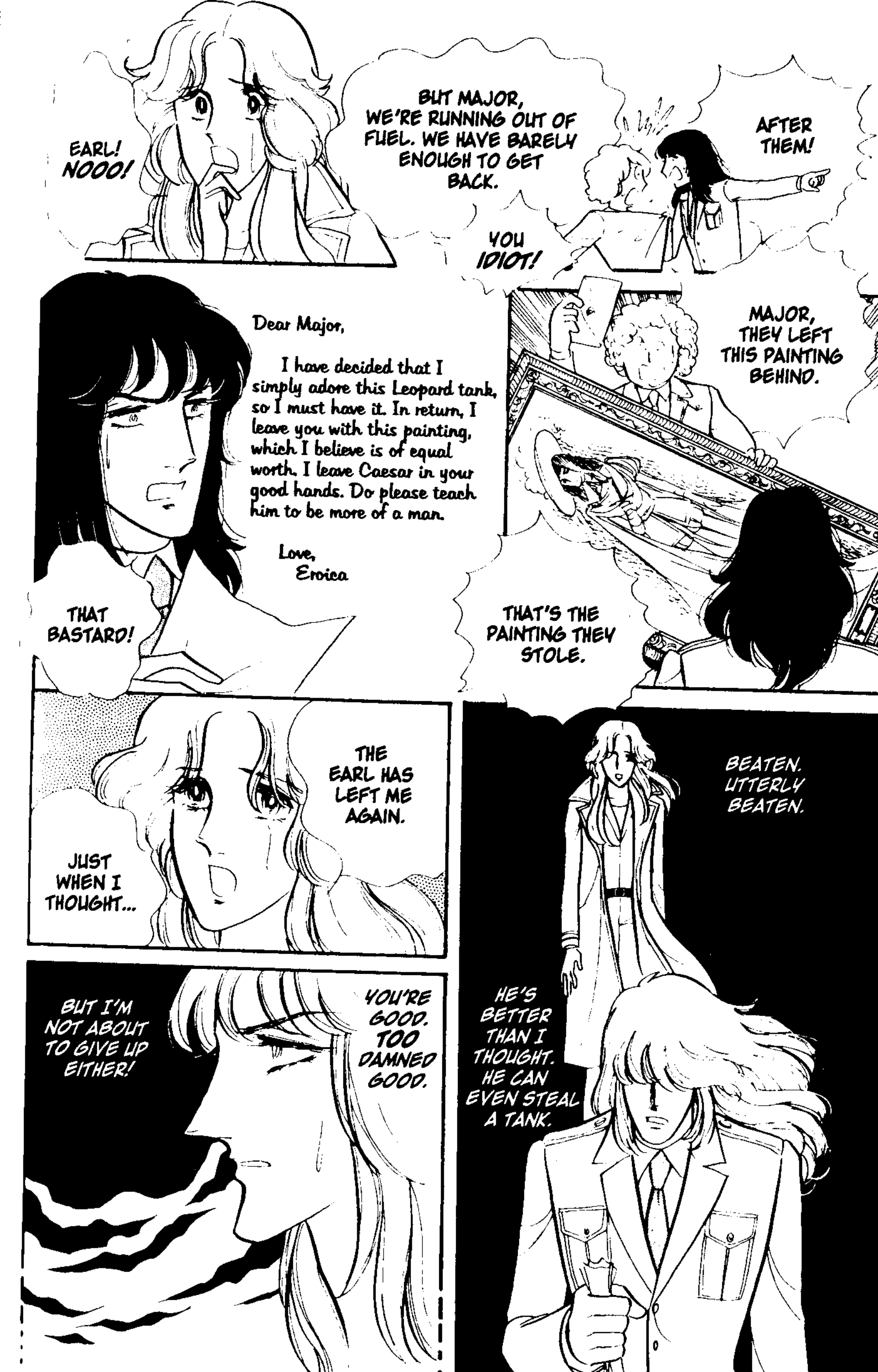

MAJOR, YOU SAI
THAT YOU LIKED THE COLOR OF POLISHED STEEL.
WELL, I THINK I CAN LEARN TO LIKE IT, TOO.
IT'S A HEL COPT
HELP IS HERE.
AND THAT'S T SOUND O A NATO CHOPP
YOU *LOSE*, EARL.
PERHA
MY MEN WILL BE HERE SOON, TOO.

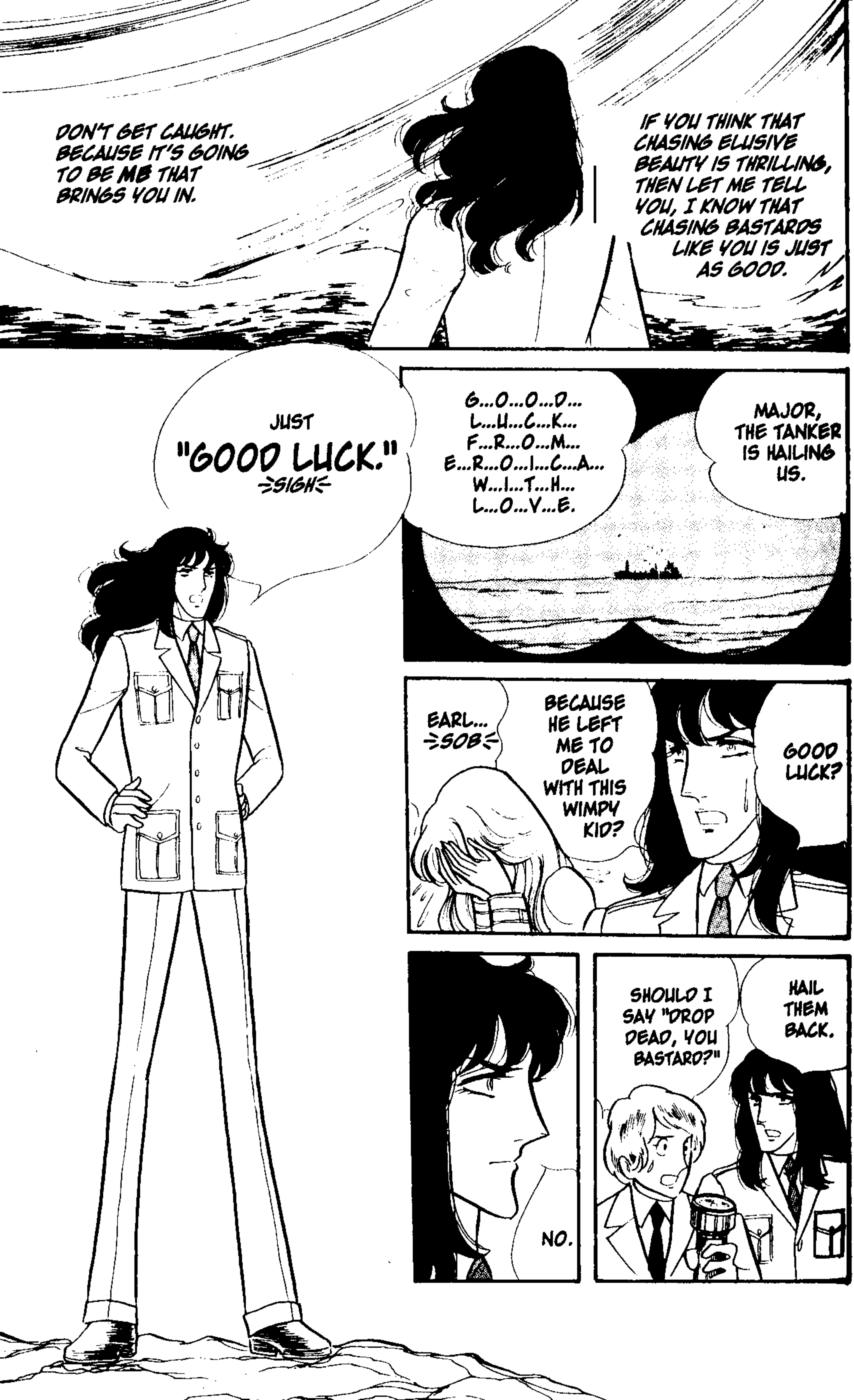

MAJOR, YOU'RE SAFE!
WE'VE GOT A SICK ONE. FLY TO A HOSPITAL FIRST, AND THEN...
MAJOR, THE CHOPPER CAN ONLY TAKE *TWO* MORE.
YOU *IDIOT*, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME IN A BIGGER CHOPPER?
THEN I VOLUNTEER TO WAIT.
TAKE CAESAR TO A HOSPITAL QUICKLY.
I LEAVE HIM IN YOUR GOOD HANDS.
UNDERSTOOD.
THE SECOND HE'S IN ONE I'M COMING BACK TO ARREST YOU.
TAKE OFF YOUR COAT.
BUT MAJOR, IT'S *COLD*.
INSUBORDINATION WILL...
...LAND ME IN ALASKA. *SIGH...* HERE
HERE. PUT THIS ON.
WHY, MAJOR, THANK YOU.
I WON'T CATCH A COLD NOW.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WORE SOMETHING SO EFFEMINATE.

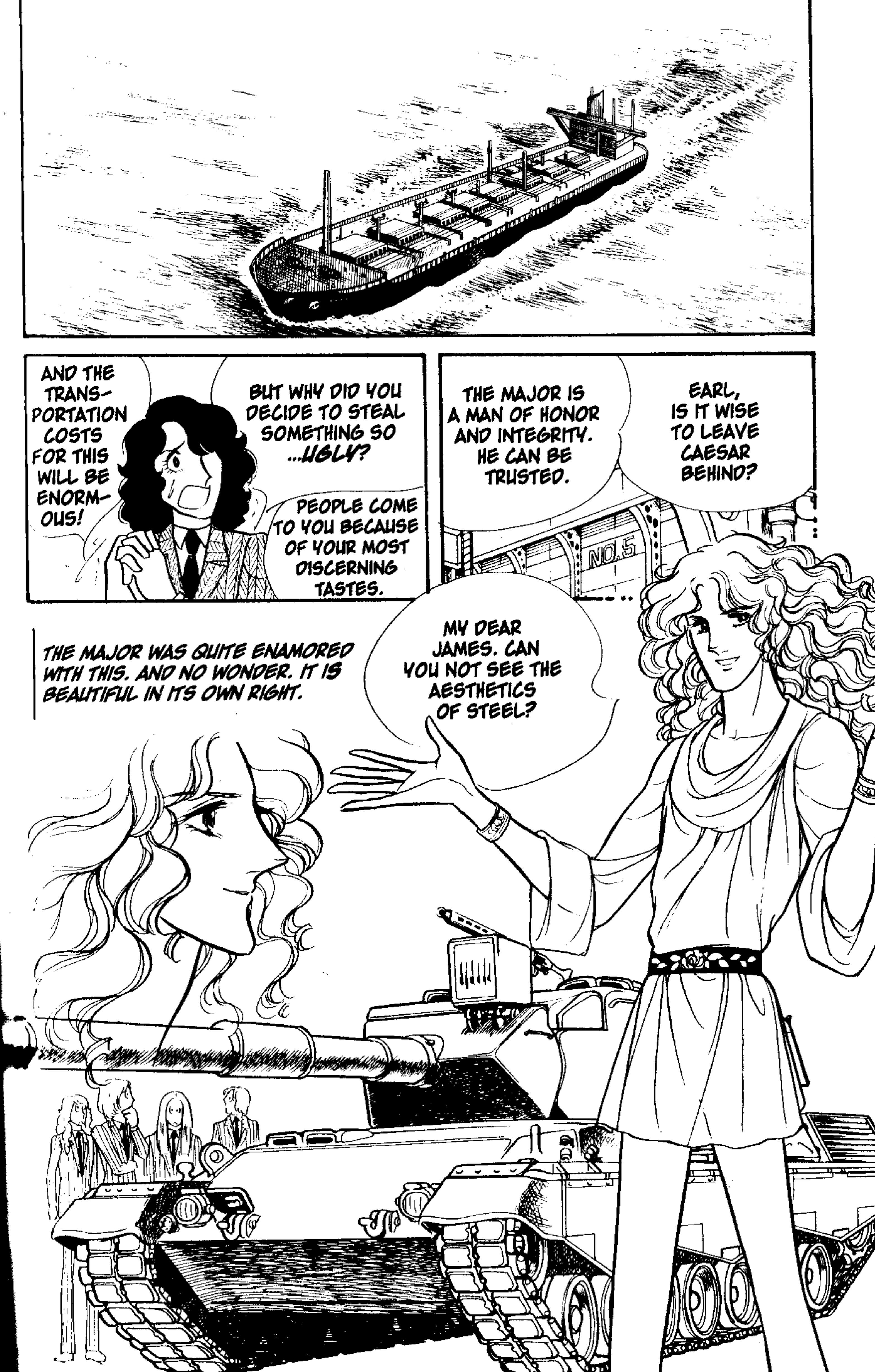

MAJO
NOW WHAT?
NOW THAT I'VE SEEN ONE THIS CLOSE, A TANK *IS* QUITE NICE.
I LIKE IT, TOO, NOW.
MAKE SURE A THIEF DOESN'T TAKE IT, THEN.
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT ANYONE WOULD BE THAT INTERESTED.
TSK TSK, MAJOR.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I'M INTERESTED IN A GREAT MANY THINGS?

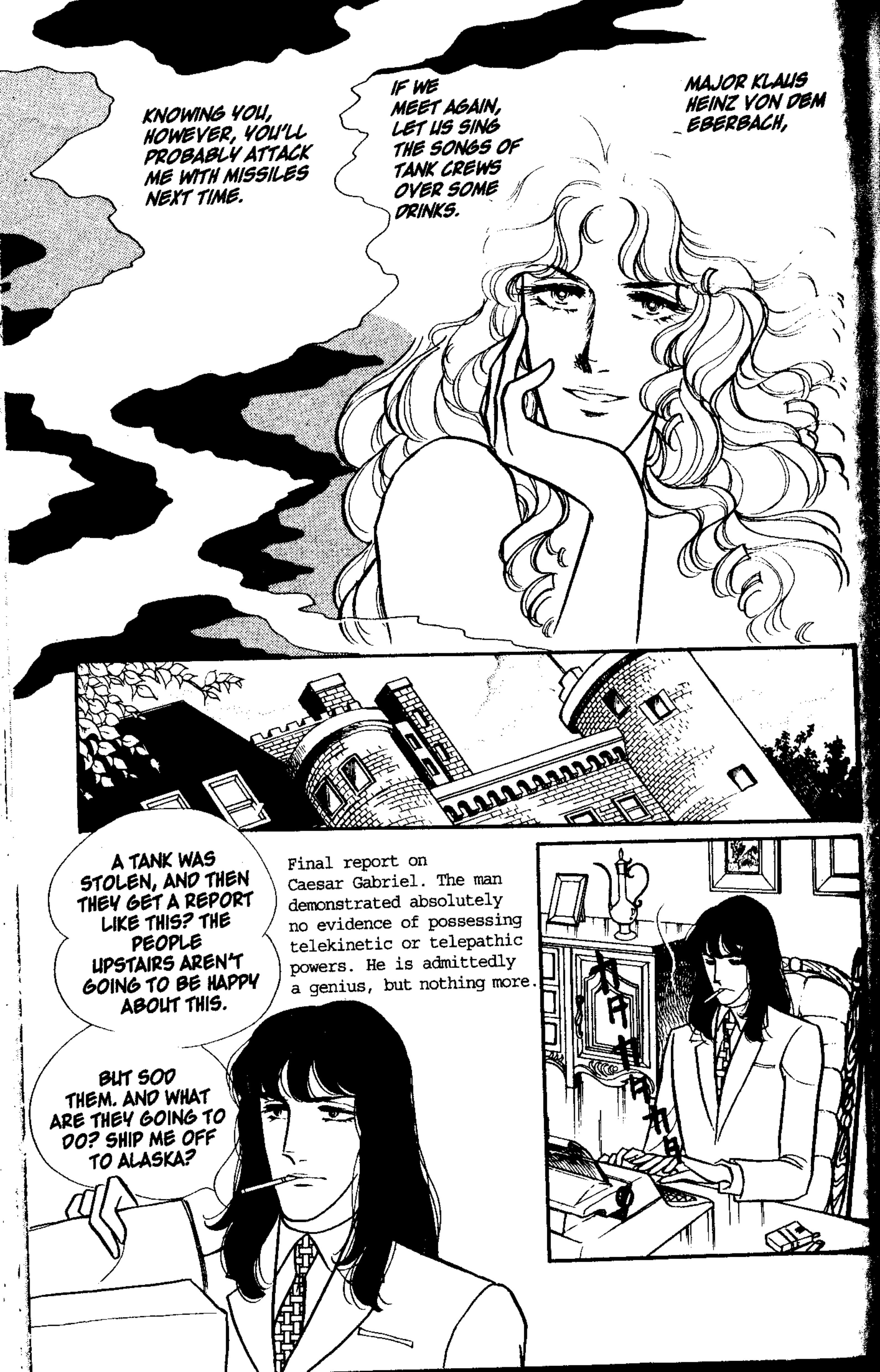

UH... UH...
WHERE AM I?
WE'RE ALMOST AT A HOSPITAL.
WHERE'S THE EARL? *WHERE?*
THE CHOPPER COULDN'T TAKE HIM, SO WE LEFT HIM.
THE EARL WAS GOING TO LEAVE WHEN I WAS OUT AGAIN?
PLEASE, WE NEED TO GO *BACK!* THE EARL INTENDS TO DISAPPEAR AGAIN!
THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE!
I LEFT HIM ALL ALONE ON THE ISLAND... WITH MY TANK...
IS *THAT* WHAT HE'S PLANNING?
NO! HE WON'T, WILL HE?
BACK TO THE ISLAND, *NOW!*

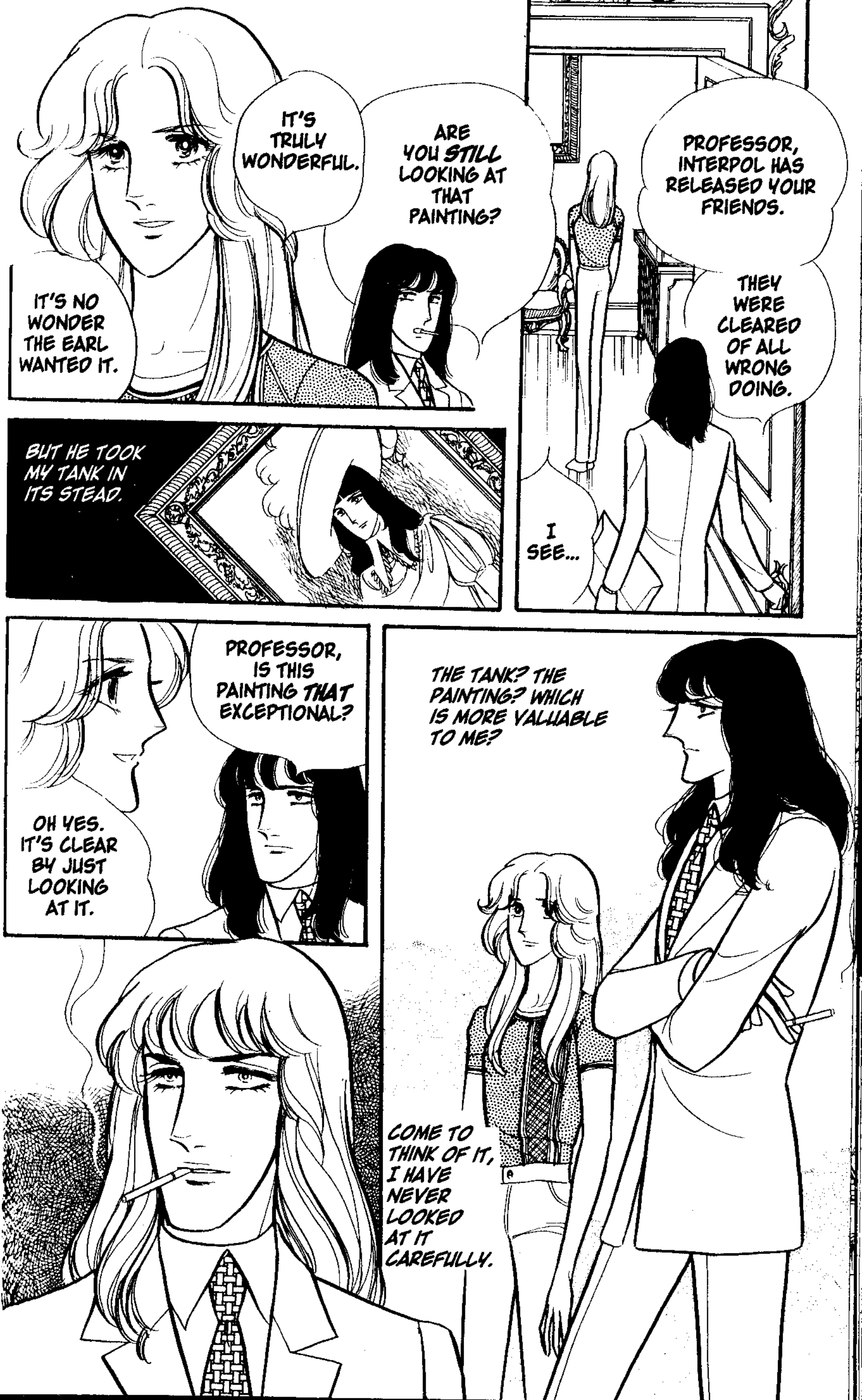

MY TANK!
MY LEOPARD!
MAJOR, IT'S *GONE!* THERE ISN'T A SINGLE TRACE OF THE MAJOR'S TANK.
SO HE WAS AFTER THE TANK! AND HIS MEN MUST HAVE BEEN HERE!
LOOK AROUND HERE. IT'S NOT AS IF THEY CAN EASILY TAKE A TANK SOMEWHERE.
MAJOR, THERE'S AN OIL TANKER OFF THE COAST!
LET ME SEE!
IT'S THE EARL! HE'S STEALING *MY* TANK!

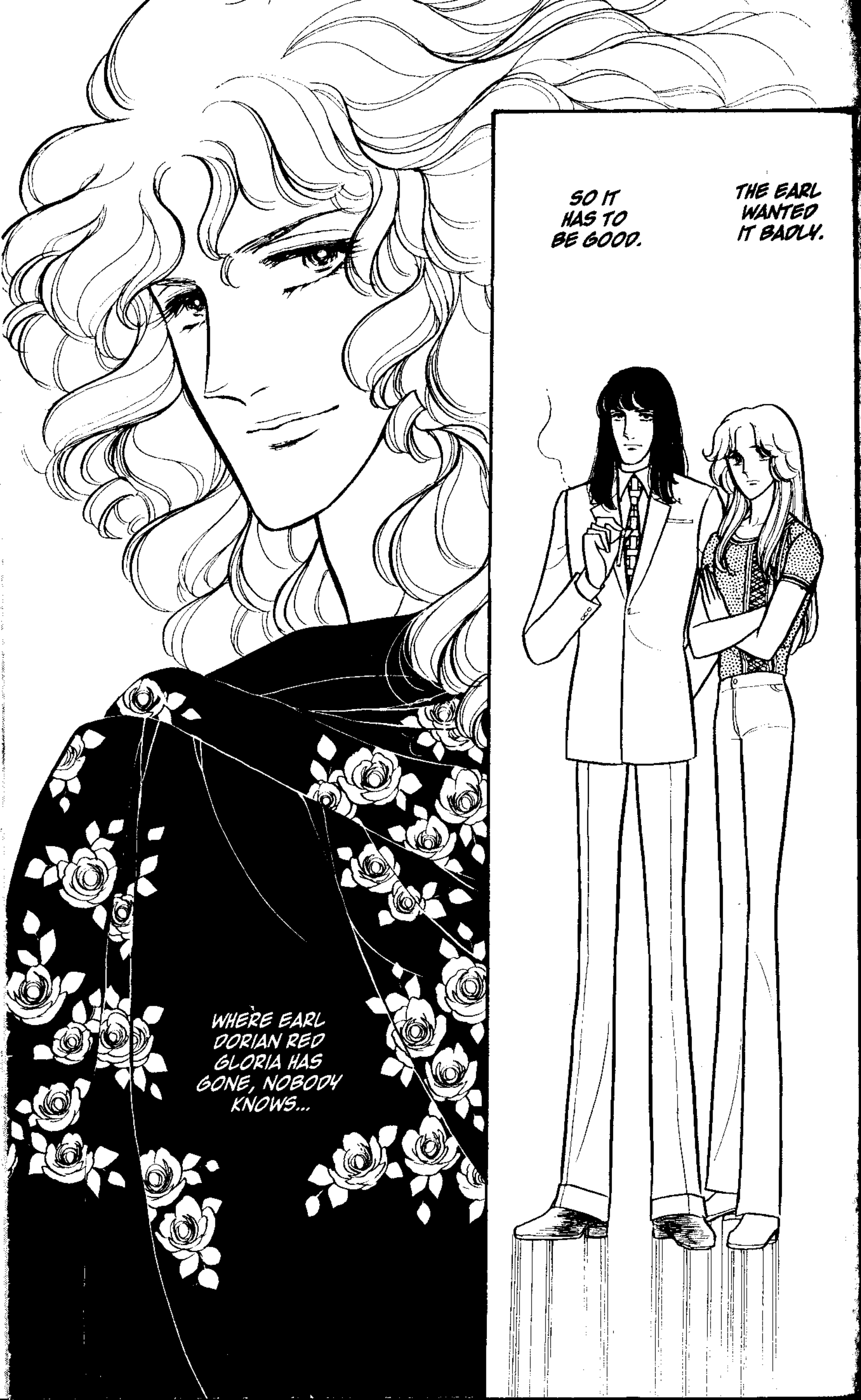

EARL! NOOO!
AFTER THEM!
BUT MAJOR, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF FUEL. WE HAVE BARELY ENOUGH TO GET BACK.
YOU IDIOT!
MAJOR, THEY LEFT THIS PAINTING BEHIND.
THAT'S THE PAINTING THEY STOLE.
Dear Major,
I have decided that I simply adore this Leopard tank, so I must have it. In return, I leave you with this painting, which I believe is of equal worth. I leave Caesar in your good hands. Do please teach him to be more of a man.
Love, Eroica
THAT BASTARD!
THE EARL HAS LEFT ME AGAIN.
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT...
BEATEN. UTTERLY BEATEN.
HE'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT. HE CAN EVEN STEAL A TANK.
YOU'RE GOOD. TOO DAMNED GOOD.
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP EITHER!


IF YOU THINK THAT CHASING ELUSIVE BEAUTY IS THRILLING, THEN LET ME TELL YOU, I KNOW THAT CHASING BASTARDS LIKE YOU IS JUST AS GOOD.
DON'T GET CAUGHT. BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE ME THAT BRINGS YOU IN.
MAJOR, THE TANKER IS HAILING US.
G...O...O...D... L...U...C...K... F...R...O...M... E...R...O...I...C...A... W...I...T...H... L...O...V...E.
JUST "GOOD LUCK." ⩵SIGH⩵
GOOD LUCK?
BECAUSE HE LEFT ME TO DEAL WITH THIS WIMPY KID?
EARL... ⩵SOB⩵
HAIL THEM BACK.
SHOULD I SAY "DROP DEAD, YOU BASTARD?"
NO.

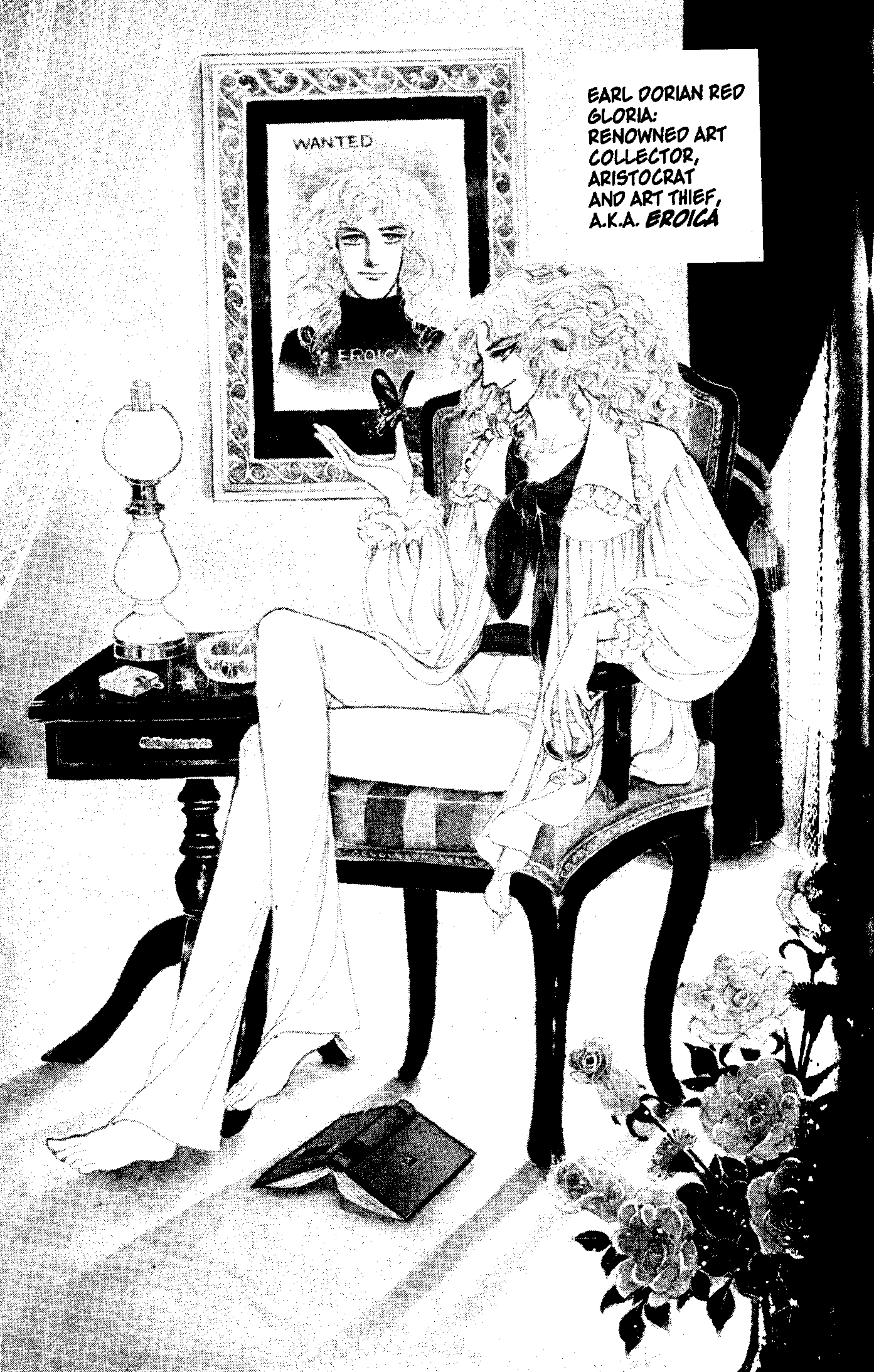

EARL, IS IT WISE TO LEAVE CAESAR BEHIND?
THE MAJOR IS A MAN OF HONOR AND INTEGRITY. HE CAN BE TRUSTED.
BUT WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO STEAL SOMETHING SO ...UGLY?
AND THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THIS WILL BE ENORMOUS!
PEOPLE COME TO YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR MOST DISCERNING TASTES.
NO.5
MY DEAR JAMES. CAN YOU NOT SEE THE AESTHETICS OF STEEL?
THE MAJOR WAS QUITE ENAMORED WITH THIS. AND NO WONDER. IT IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS OWN RIGHT.


MAJOR KLAUS HEINZ VON DEM EBERBACH,
IF WE MEET AGAIN, LET US SING THE SONGS OF TANK CREWS OVER SOME DRINKS.
KNOWING YOU, HOWEVER, YOU'LL PROBABLY ATTACK ME WITH MISSILES NEXT TIME.
カタカタカタ
Final report on Caesar Gabriel. The man demonstrated absolutely no evidence of possessing telekinetic or telepathic powers. He is admittedly a genius, but nothing more.
A TANK WAS STOLEN, AND THEN THEY GET A REPORT LIKE THIS? THE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS AREN'T GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS.
BUT SOD THEM. AND WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO? SHIP ME OFF TO ALASKA?


PROFESSOR, INTERPOL HAS RELEASED YOUR FRIENDS.
THEY WERE CLEARED OF ALL WRONG DOING.
I SEE...
ARE YOU *STILL* LOOKING AT THAT PAINTING?
IT'S TRULY WONDERFUL.
IT'S NO WONDER THE EARL WANTED IT.
BUT HE TOOK MY TANK IN ITS STEAD.
THE TANK? THE PAINTING? WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE TO ME?
PROFESSOR, IS THIS PAINTING *THAT* EXCEPTIONAL?
OH YES. IT'S CLEAR BY JUST LOOKING AT IT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVE NEVER LOOKED AT IT CAREFULLY.


THE EARL WANTED IT BADLY.
SO IT HAS TO BE GOOD.
WHERE EARL DORIAN RED GLORIA HAS GONE, NOBODY KNOWS...

じゃム


EARL DORIAN RED GLORIA: RENOWNED ART COLLECTOR, ARISTOCRAT AND ART THIEF, A.K.A. *EROICA*
WANTED
EROICA

PRINCESS COMICS

エロイカより愛をこめて

1

青池保子

PRINCESS
COMICS

エロイカより愛をこめて

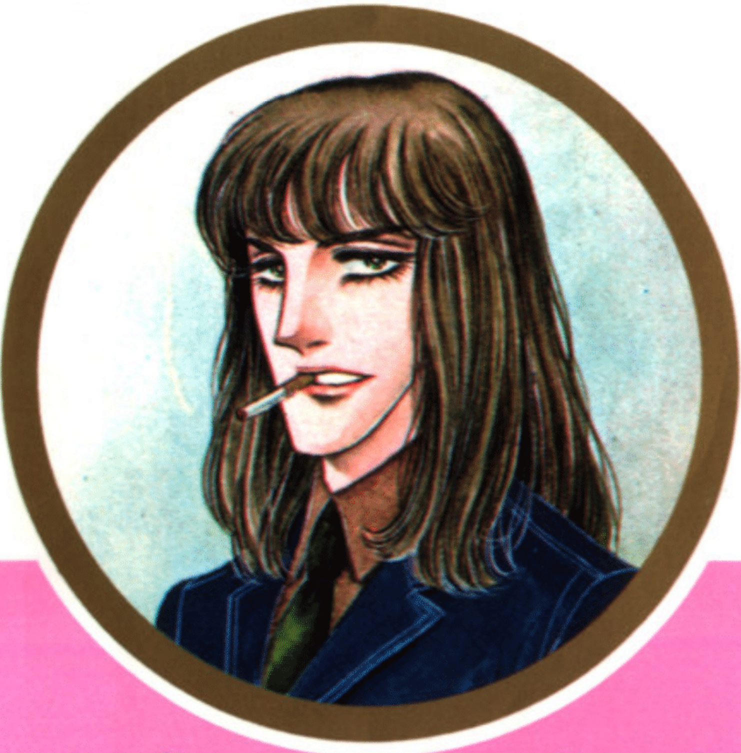
1

青池保子

秋田書店

★

PRINCESS COMICS



プリンセスコミックス

ISBN4-253-07109-0 C0279 P380E

雑誌 40220—44

秋田書店 定価380円
（本体369円）

エロイカより愛（あい）をこめて

FROM EROICA
WITH LOVE

第（だい）1巻（かん）

BOOK #1

EROICA
EROICA

By Yasuko Aoike

青池保子（あおいけやすこ）

PRINCESS COMICS
〈ビバ・プリンセス掲載（けいさい）〉

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE
By Yasuko Aoike

ACHILLES' LAST STAND
STORY #3

Published: April 1978

Original translation by Kx

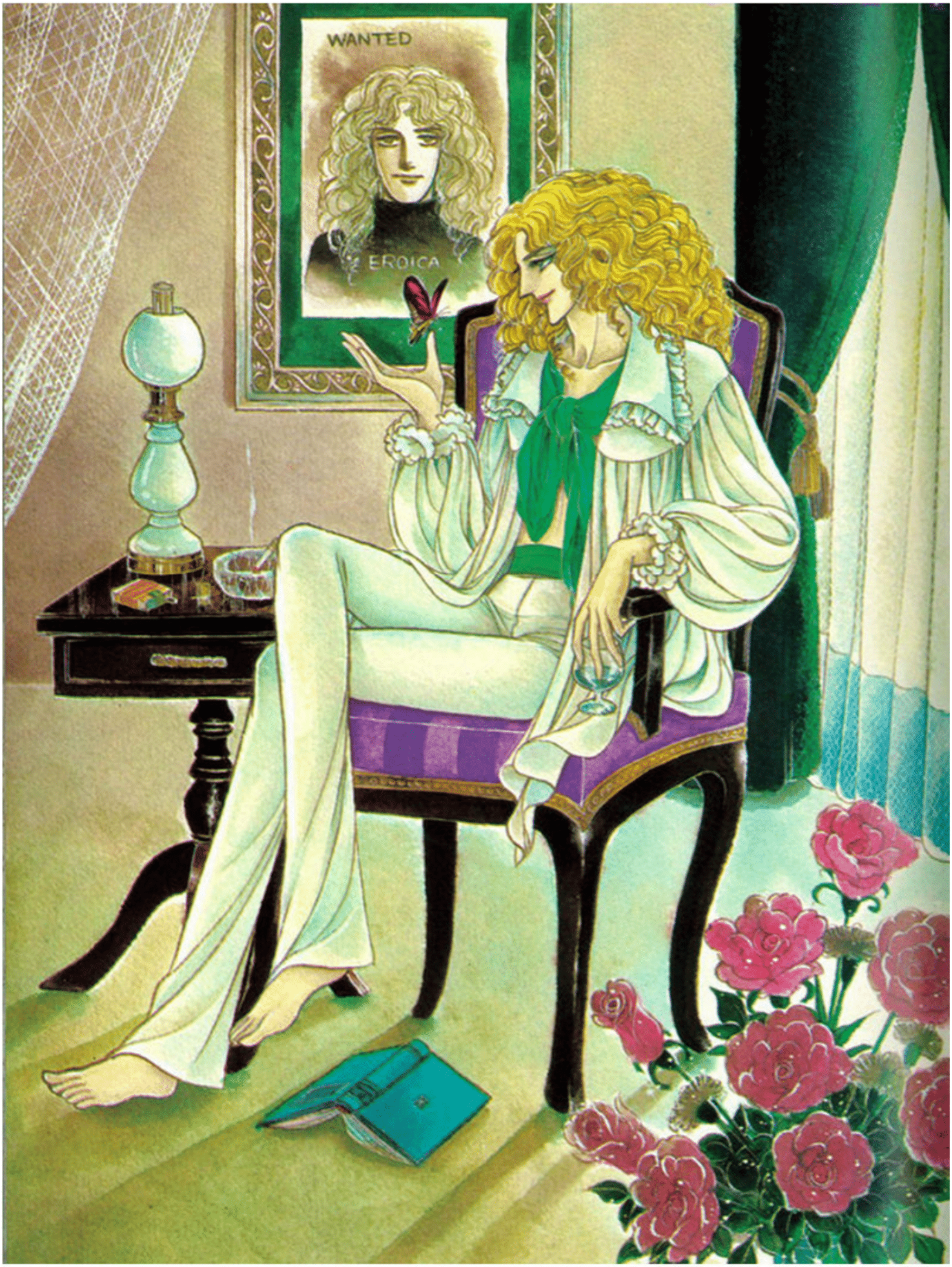
Spelling, grammar, and translation
corrections by various others.

Photoshopped by M. Price
2008

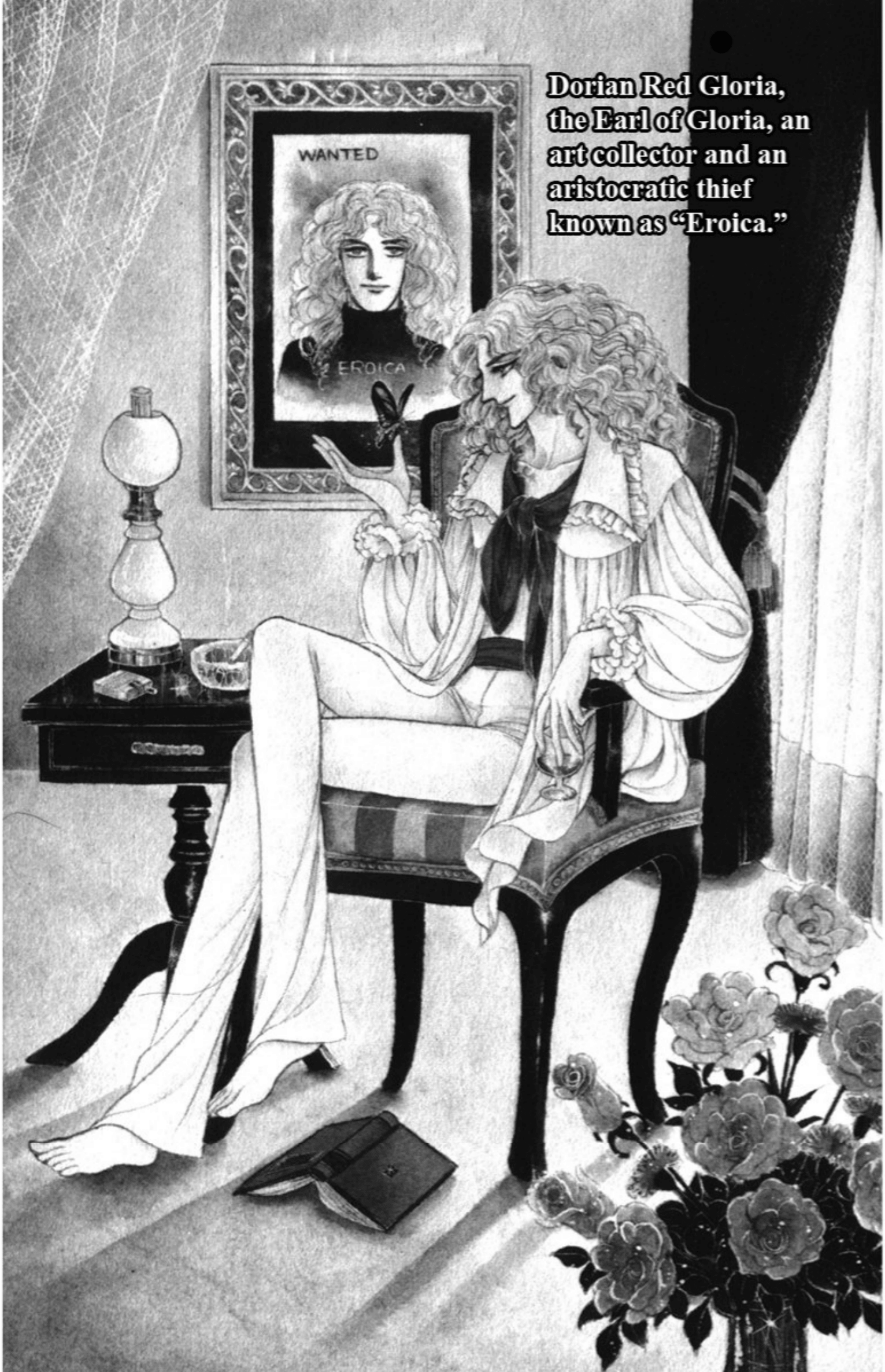
エロイカより愛をこめて　1

もくじ

A THOUSAND KISSES NO.1 5
IRON KLAUS NO.2 81
ACHILLES' LAST STAND NO.3 157


WANTED
EROICA

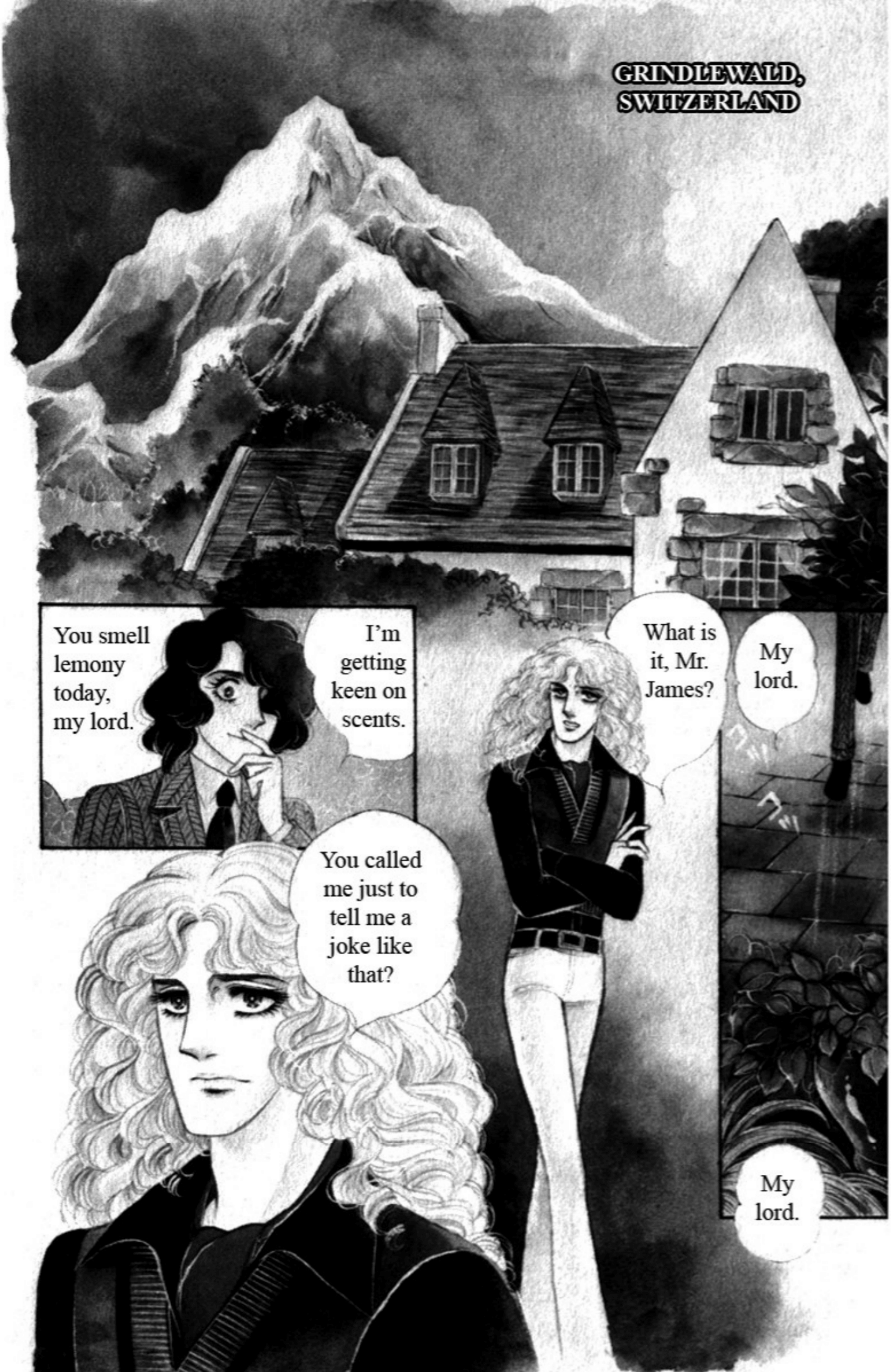
ART BOOK IMAGE

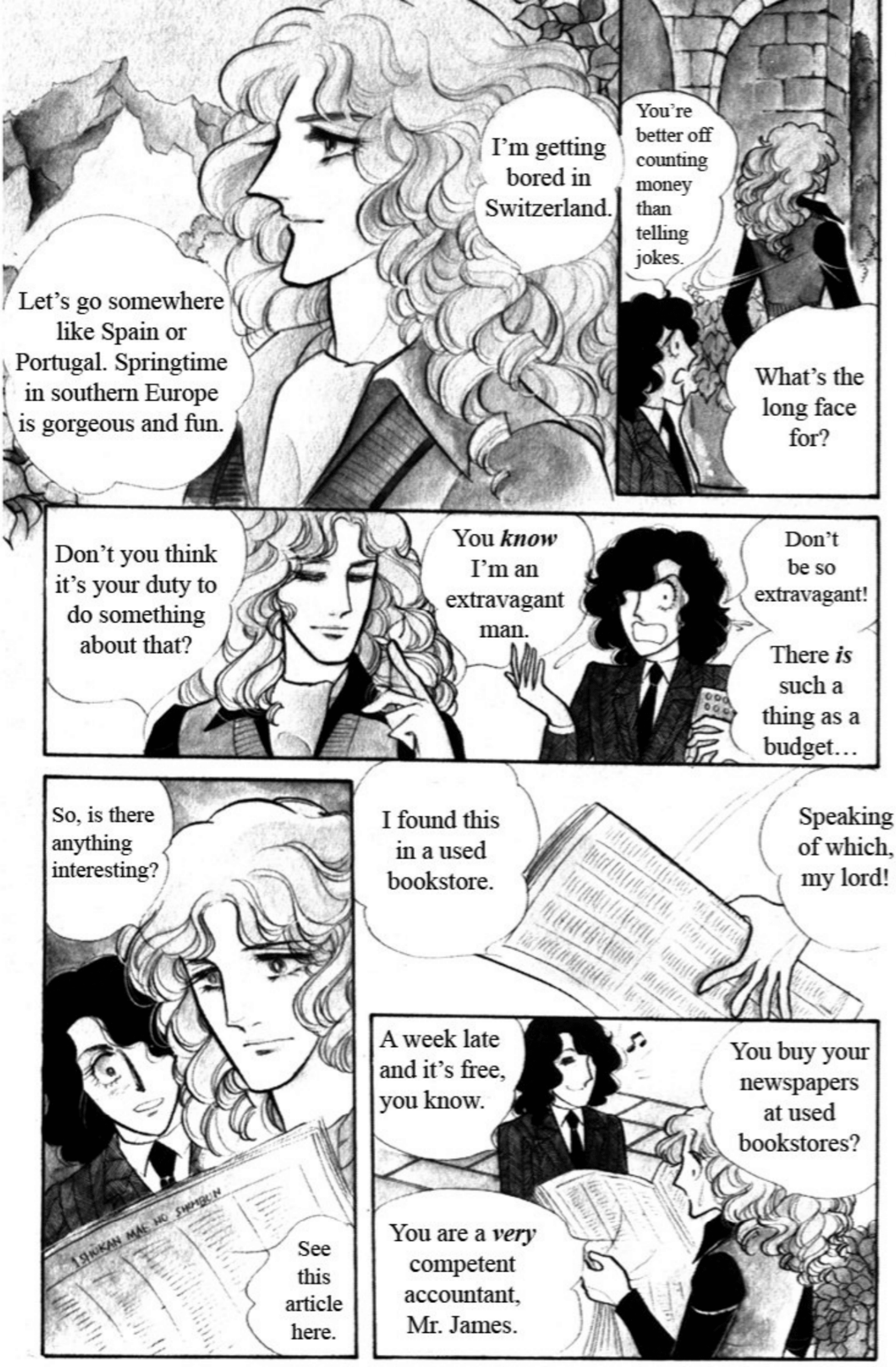

WANTED
EROICA
Dorian Red Gloria, the Earl of Gloria, an art collector and an aristocratic thief known as "Eroica."

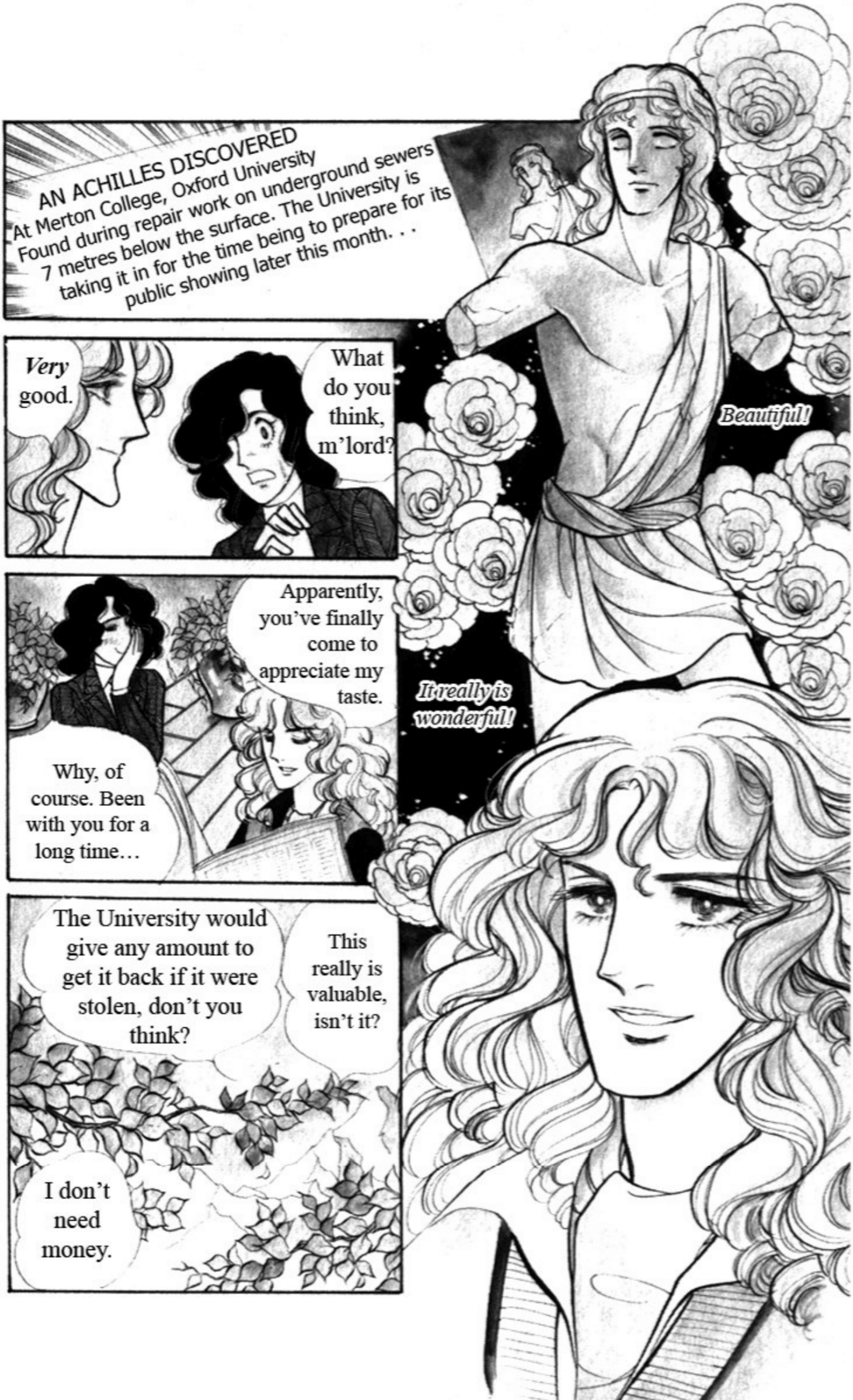
エロイカより愛をこめて

NO. 3

ACHILLES' LAST STAND


GRINDLEWALD, SWITZERLAND
My lord.
My lord.
What is it, Mr. James?
You smell lemony today, my lord.
I'm getting keen on scents.
You called me just to tell me a joke like that?


What's the long face for?
You're better off counting money than telling jokes.
I'm getting bored in Switzerland.
Let's go somewhere like Spain or Portugal. Springtime in southern Europe is gorgeous and fun.
Don't be so extravagant!
There *is* such a thing as a budget…
You *know* I'm an extravagant man.
Don't you think it's your duty to do something about that?
Speaking of which, my lord!
I found this in a used bookstore.
You buy your newspapers at used bookstores?
A week late and it's free, you know.
You are a *very* competent accountant, Mr. James.
So, is there anything interesting?
1SHUKAN MAE NO SHIMBUN
See this article here.

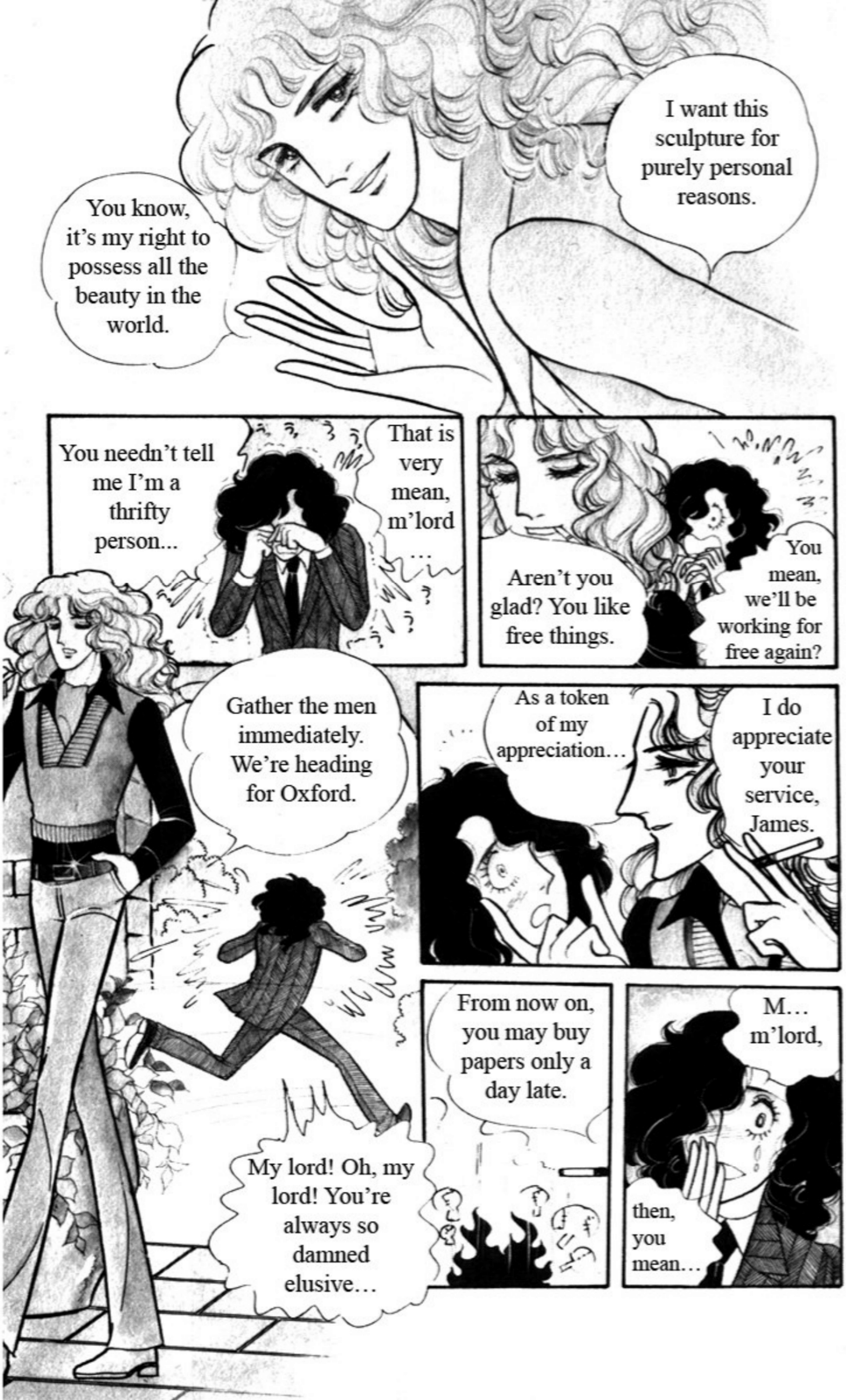


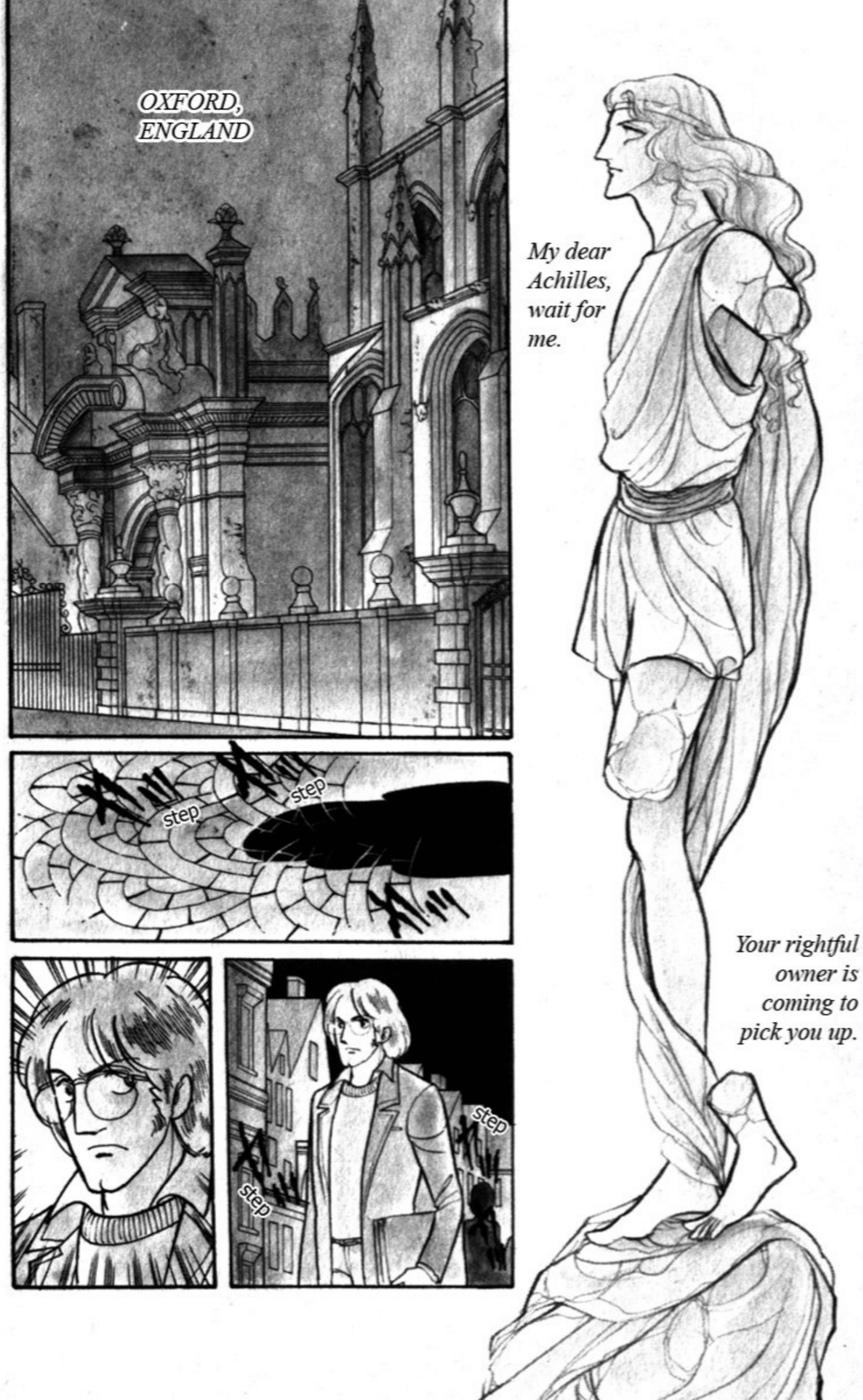
AN ACHILLES DISCOVERED

At Merton College, Oxford University

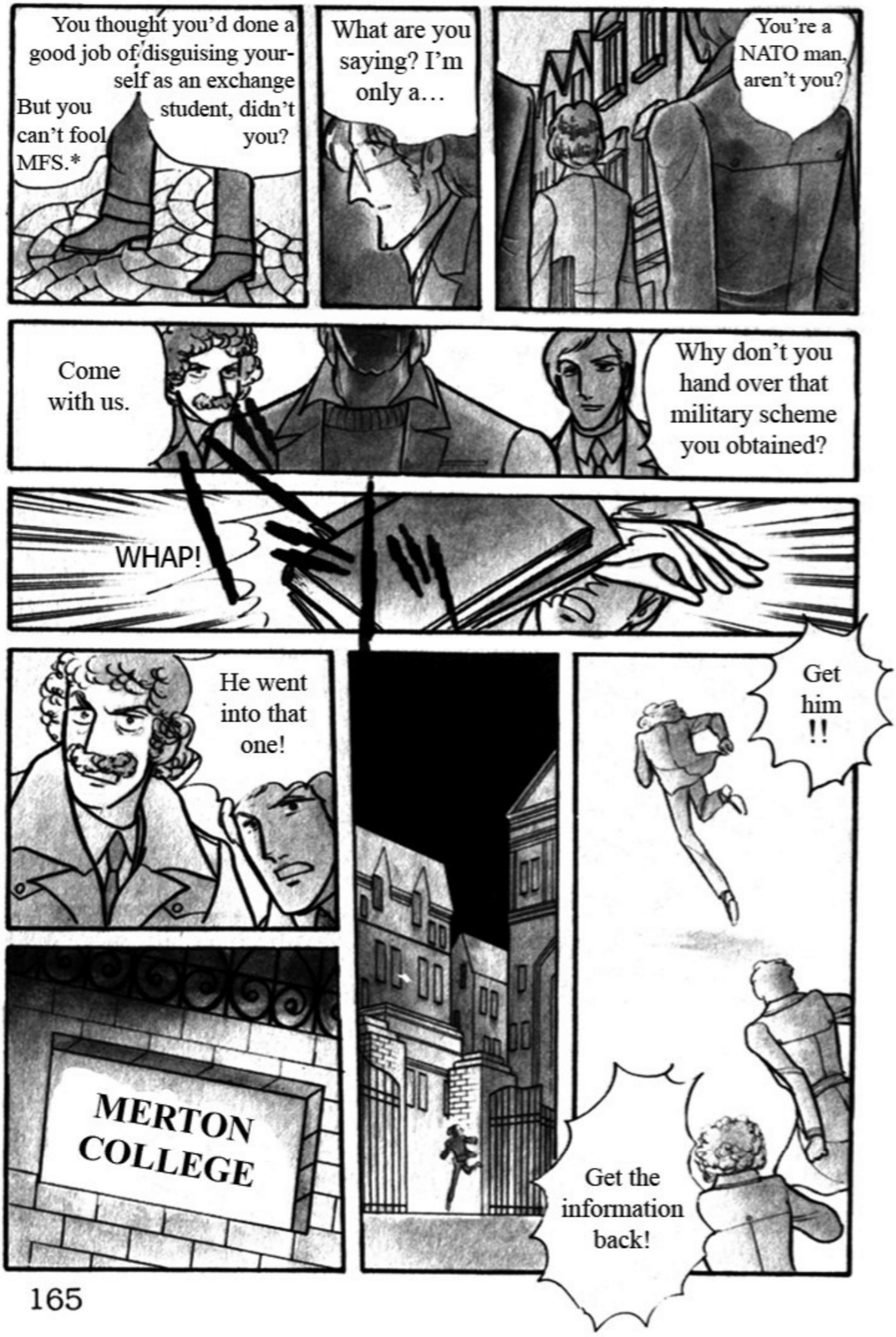
Found during repair work on underground sewers 7 metres below the surface. The University is taking it in for the time being to prepare for its public showing later this month. . .

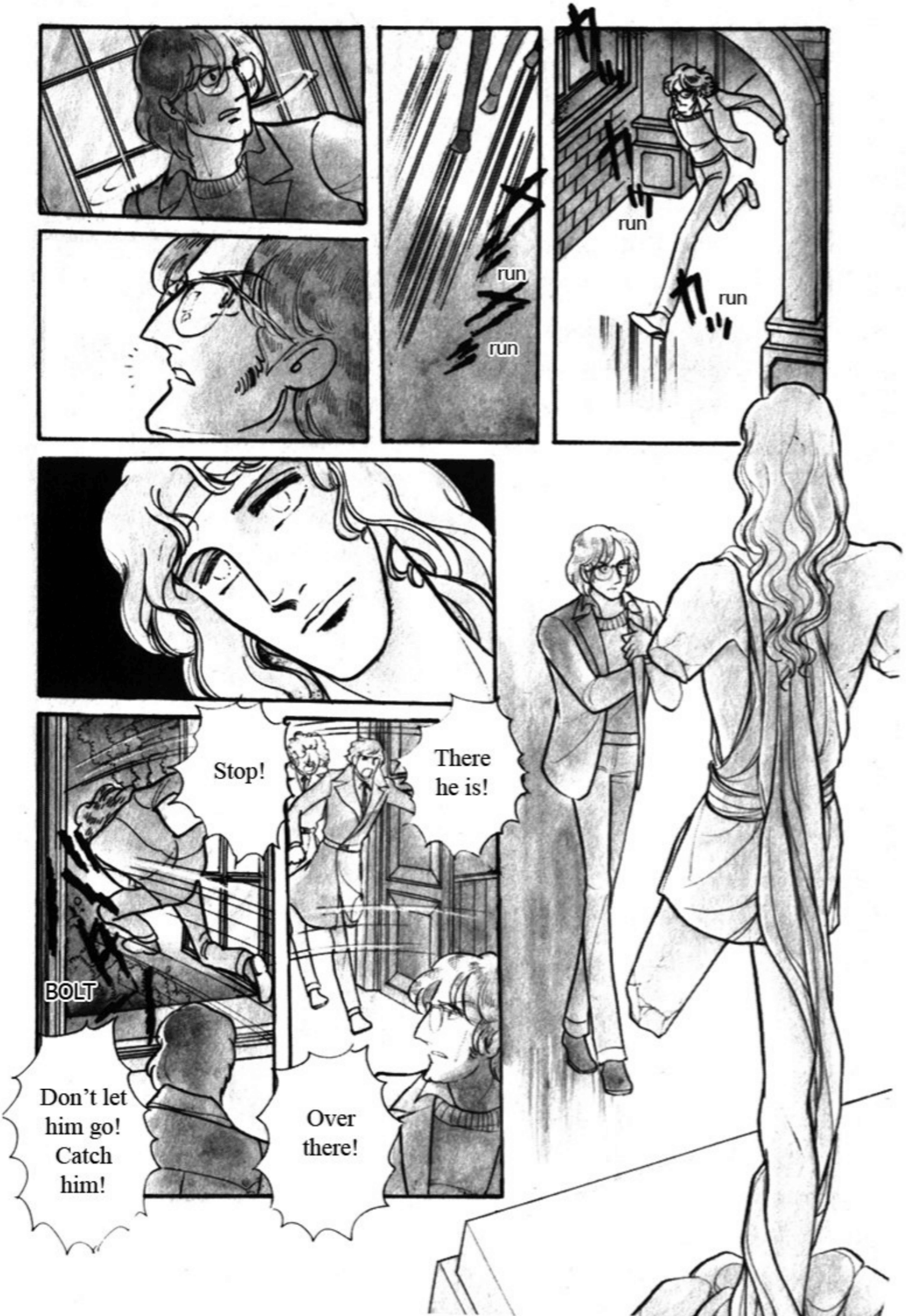
Beautiful!
It really is wonderful!
What do you think, m'lord?
Very good.
Apparently, you've finally come to appreciate my taste.
Why, of course. Been with you for a long time…
This really is valuable, isn't it?
The University would give any amount to get it back if it were stolen, don't you think?
I don't need money.

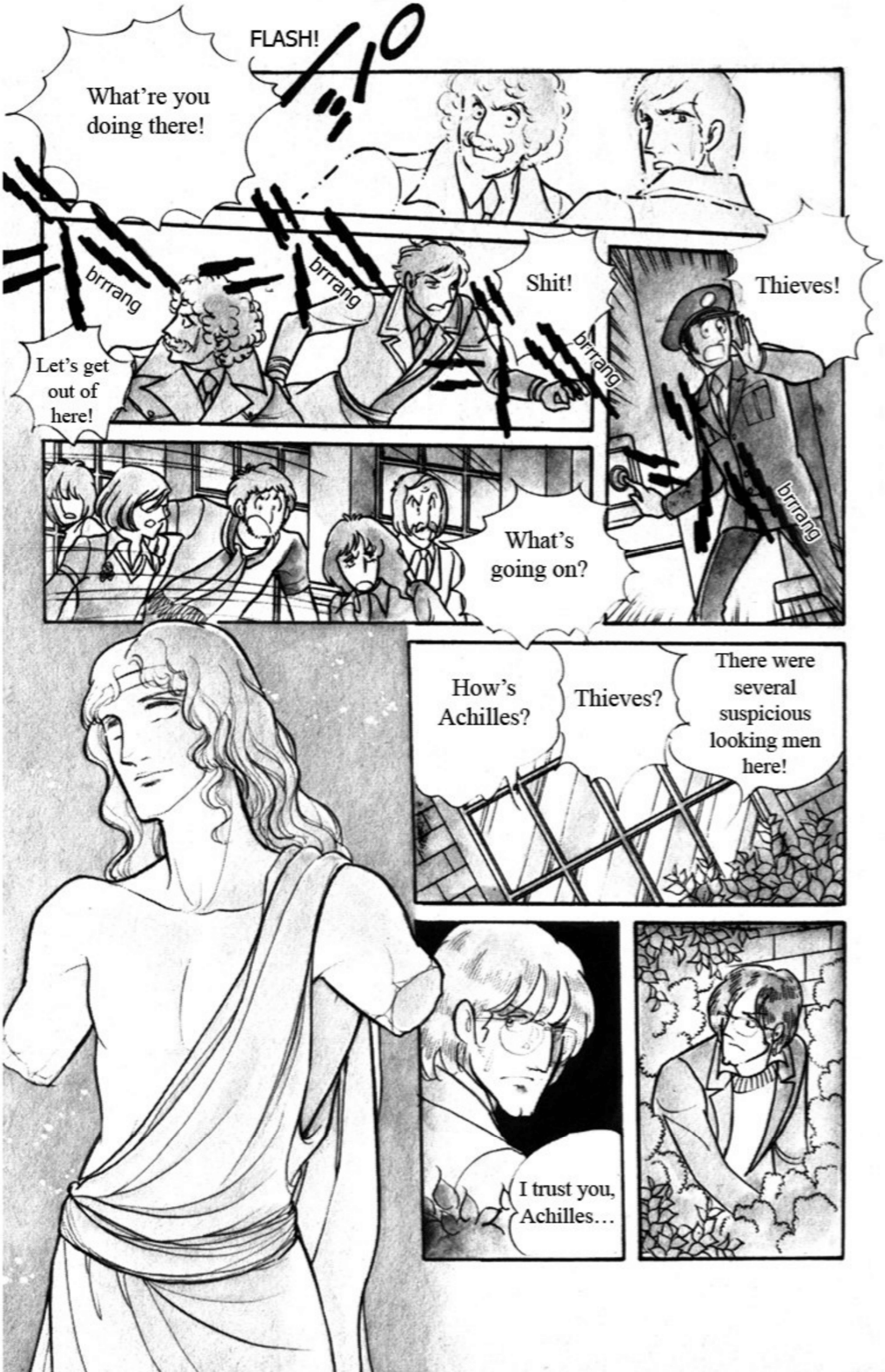

I want this sculpture for purely personal reasons.
You know, it's my right to possess all the beauty in the world.
You mean, we'll be working for free again?
Aren't you glad? You like free things.
That is very mean, m'lord …
You needn't tell me I'm a thrifty person...
I do appreciate your service, James.
As a token of my appreciation…
M… m'lord, then, you mean…
From now on, you may buy papers only a day late.
Gather the men immediately. We're heading for Oxford.
My lord! Oh, my lord! You're always so damned elusive…

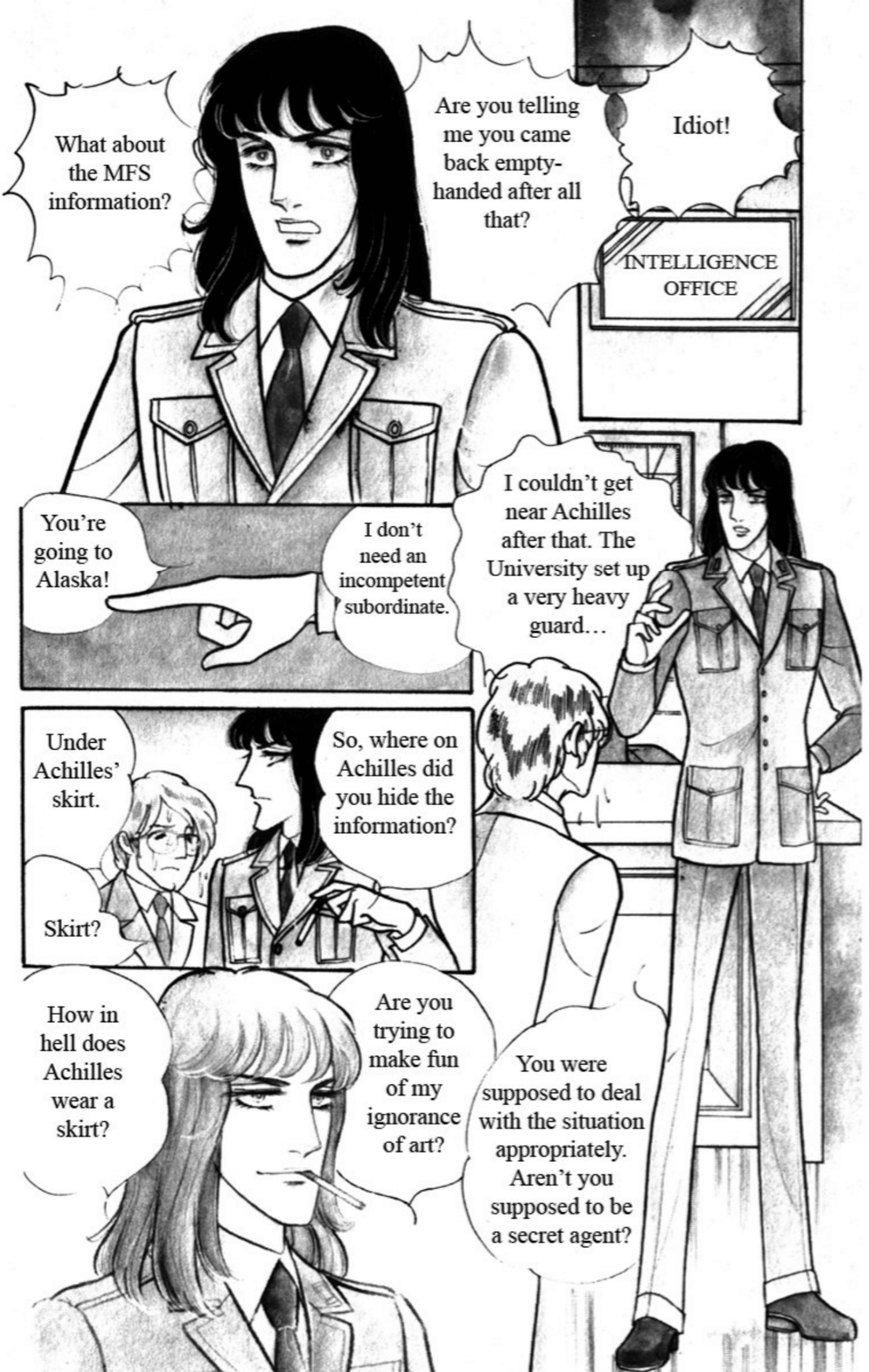

OXFORD, ENGLAND
step
step
step
step
My dear Achilles, wait for me.
Your rightful owner is coming to pick you up.

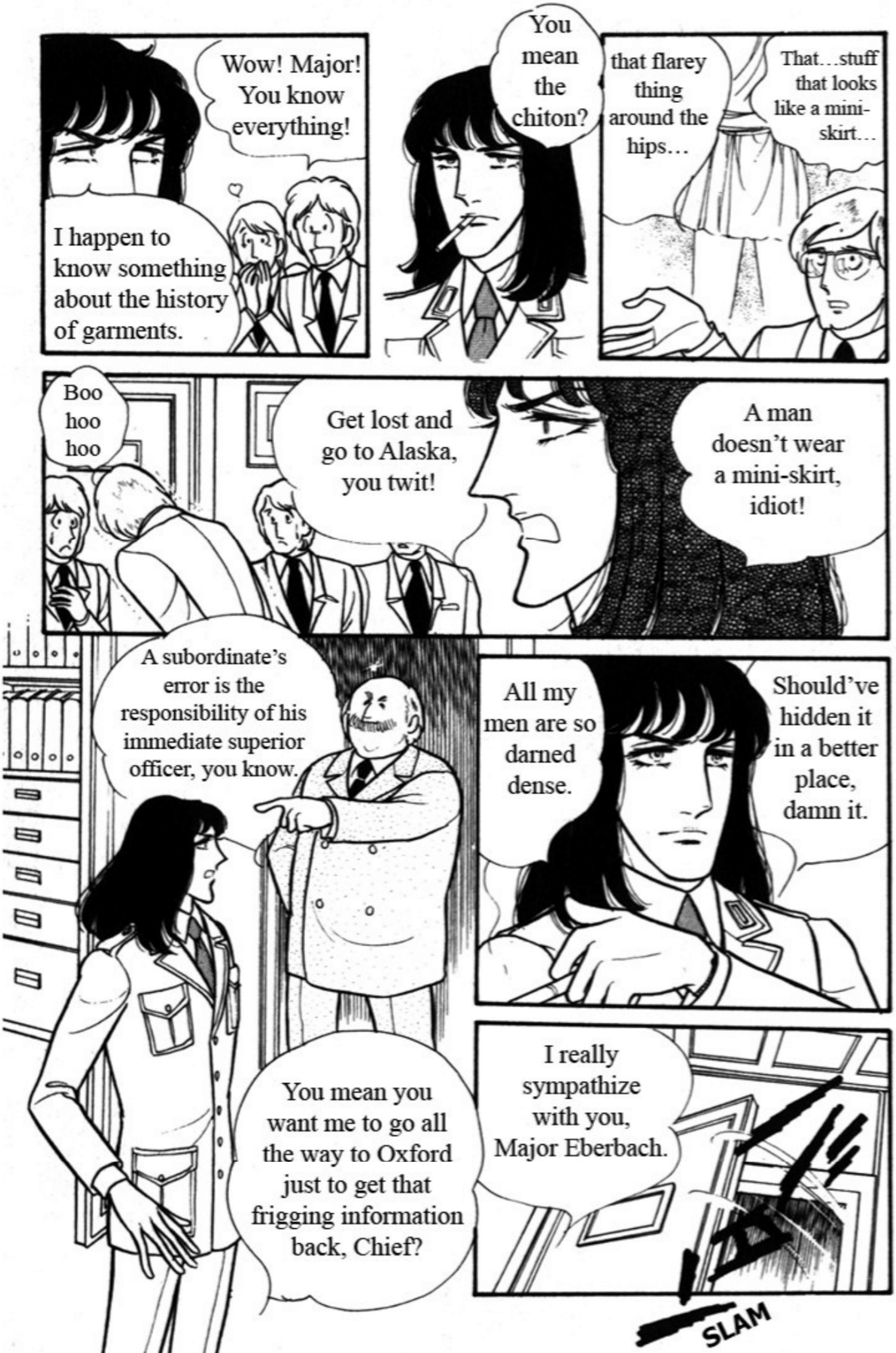
*MFS is an East German organization.

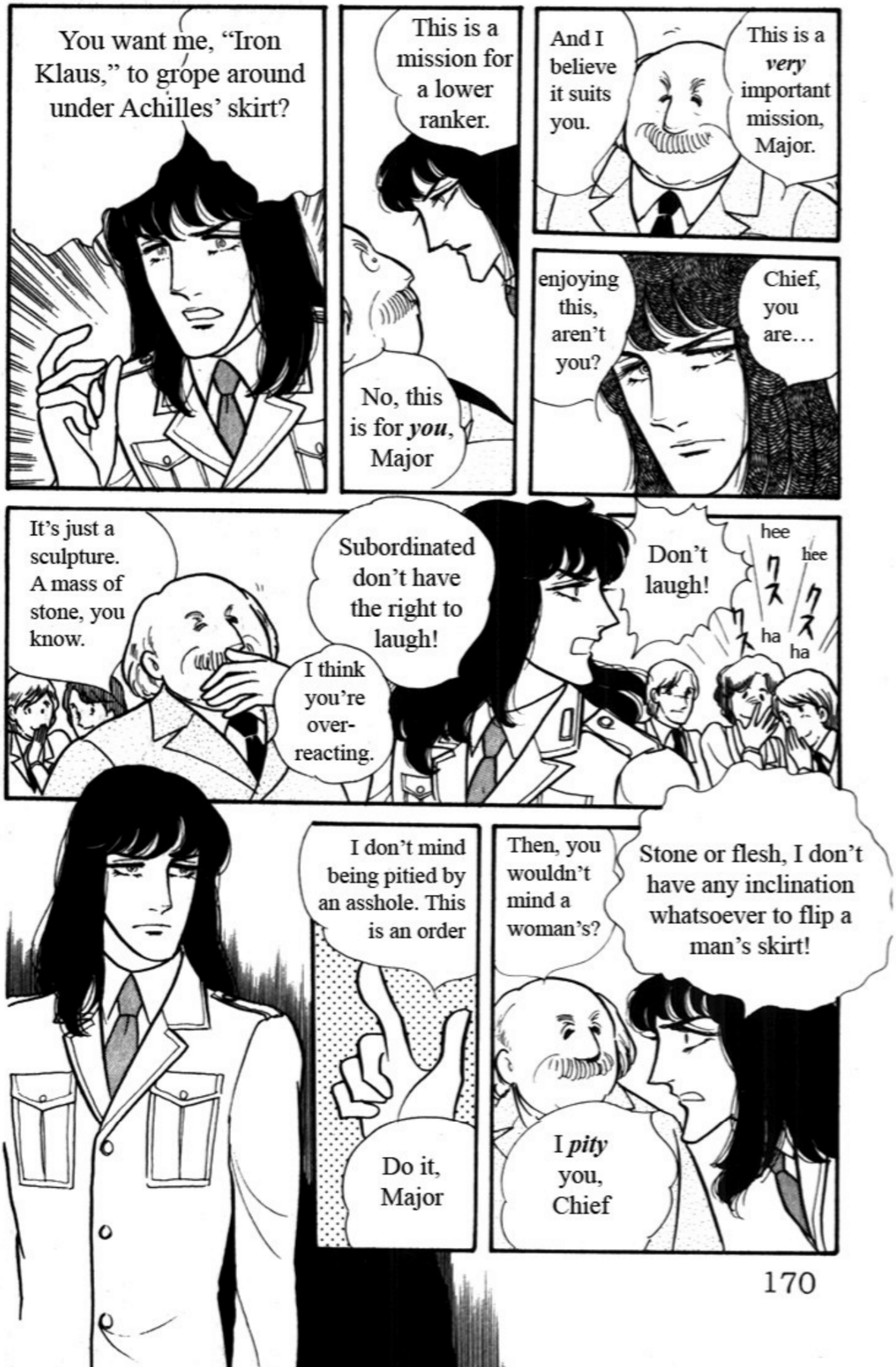

You thought you'd done a good job of disguising yourself as an exchange student, didn't you?
But you can't fool MFS.*
What are you saying? I'm only a…
You're a NATO man, aren't you?
Come with us.
Why don't you hand over that military scheme you obtained?
WHAP!
He went into that one!
Get him!!
MERTON COLLEGE
Get the information back!

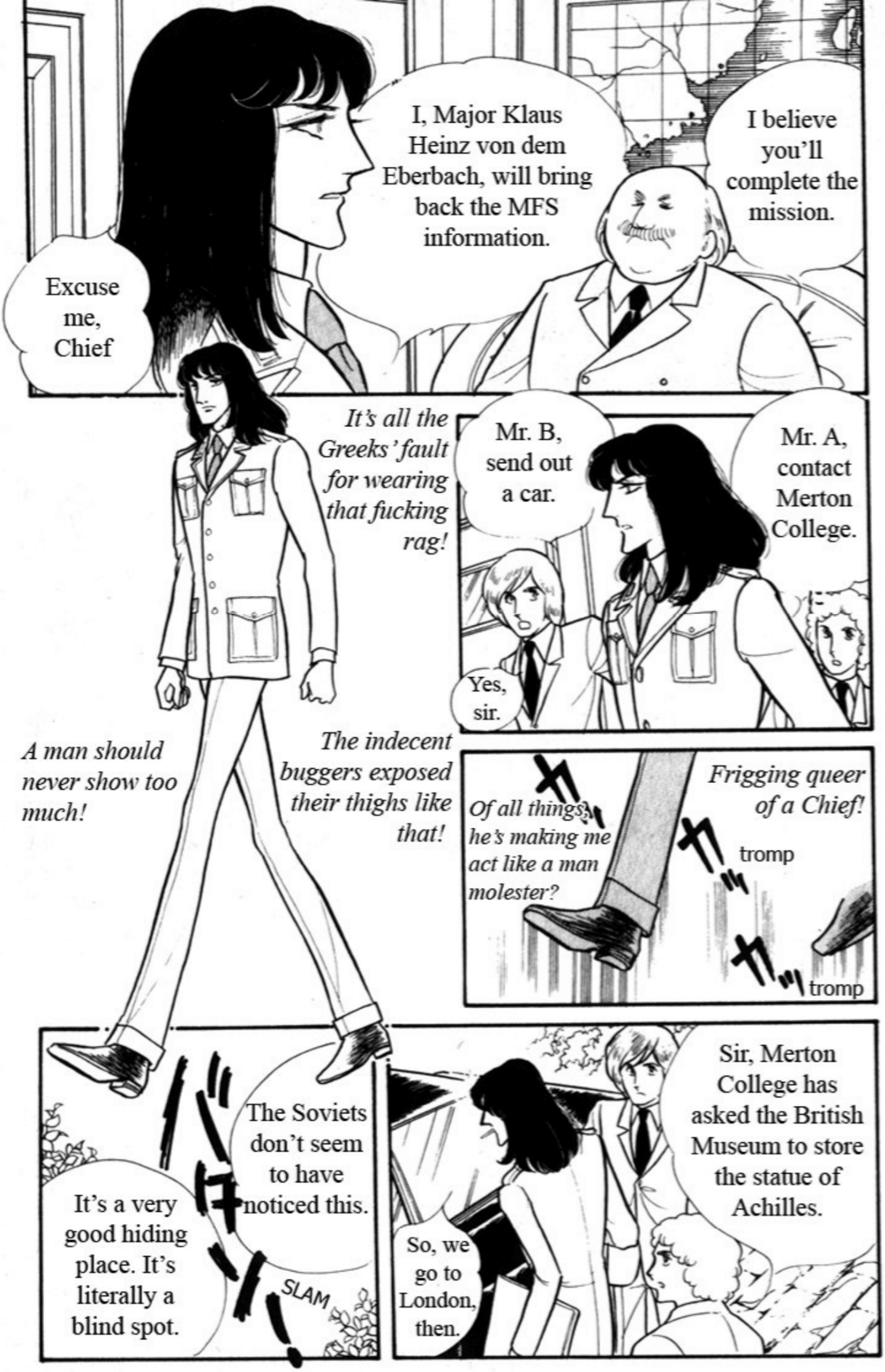

run
run
run
run
There he is!
Stop!
BOLT
Over there!
Don’t let him go! Catch him!

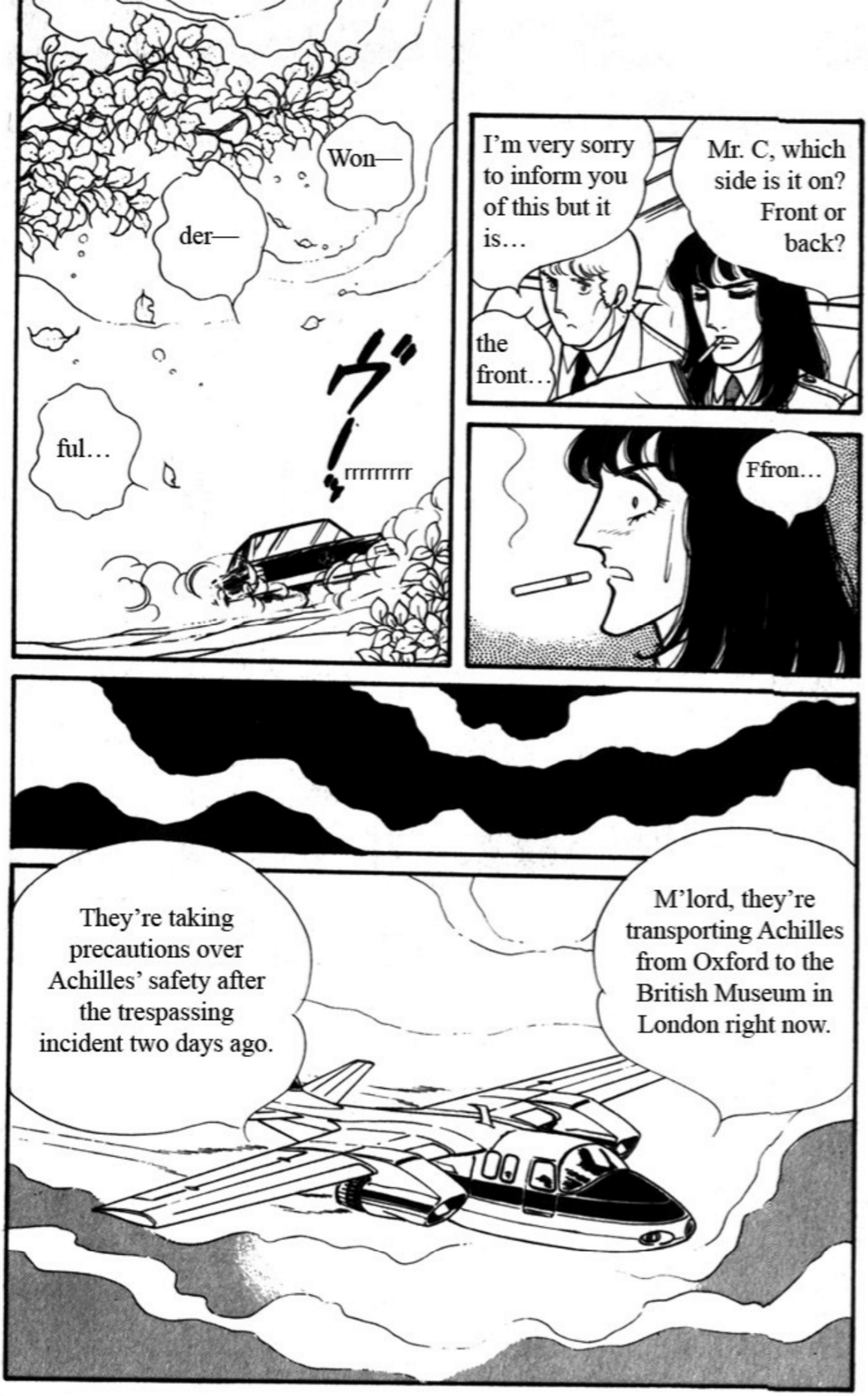

FLASH!
What're you doing there!
brrrang
brrrang
Thieves!
Shit!
Let's get out of here!
brrrang
brrrang
What's going on?
There were several suspicious looking men here!
Thieves?
How's Achilles?
I trust you, Achilles…

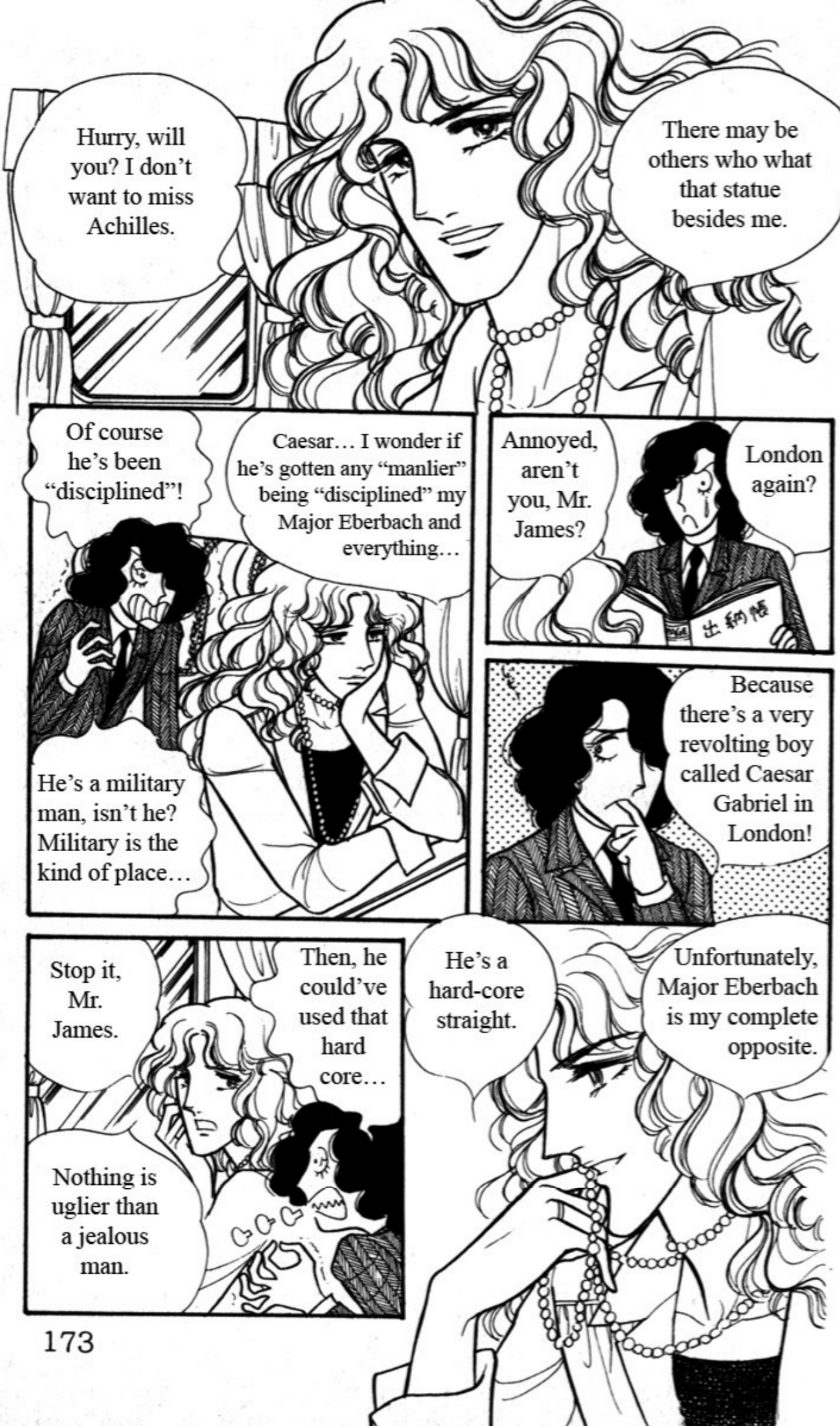

Idiot!
Are you telling me you came back empty-handed after all that?
What about the MFS information?
INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
I couldn't get near Achilles after that. The University set up a very heavy guard…
You were supposed to deal with the situation appropriately. Aren't you supposed to be a secret agent?
I don't need an incompetent subordinate.
You're going to Alaska!
So, where on Achilles did you hide the information?
Under Achilles' skirt.
Skirt?
Are you trying to make fun of my ignorance of art?
How in hell does Achilles wear a skirt?

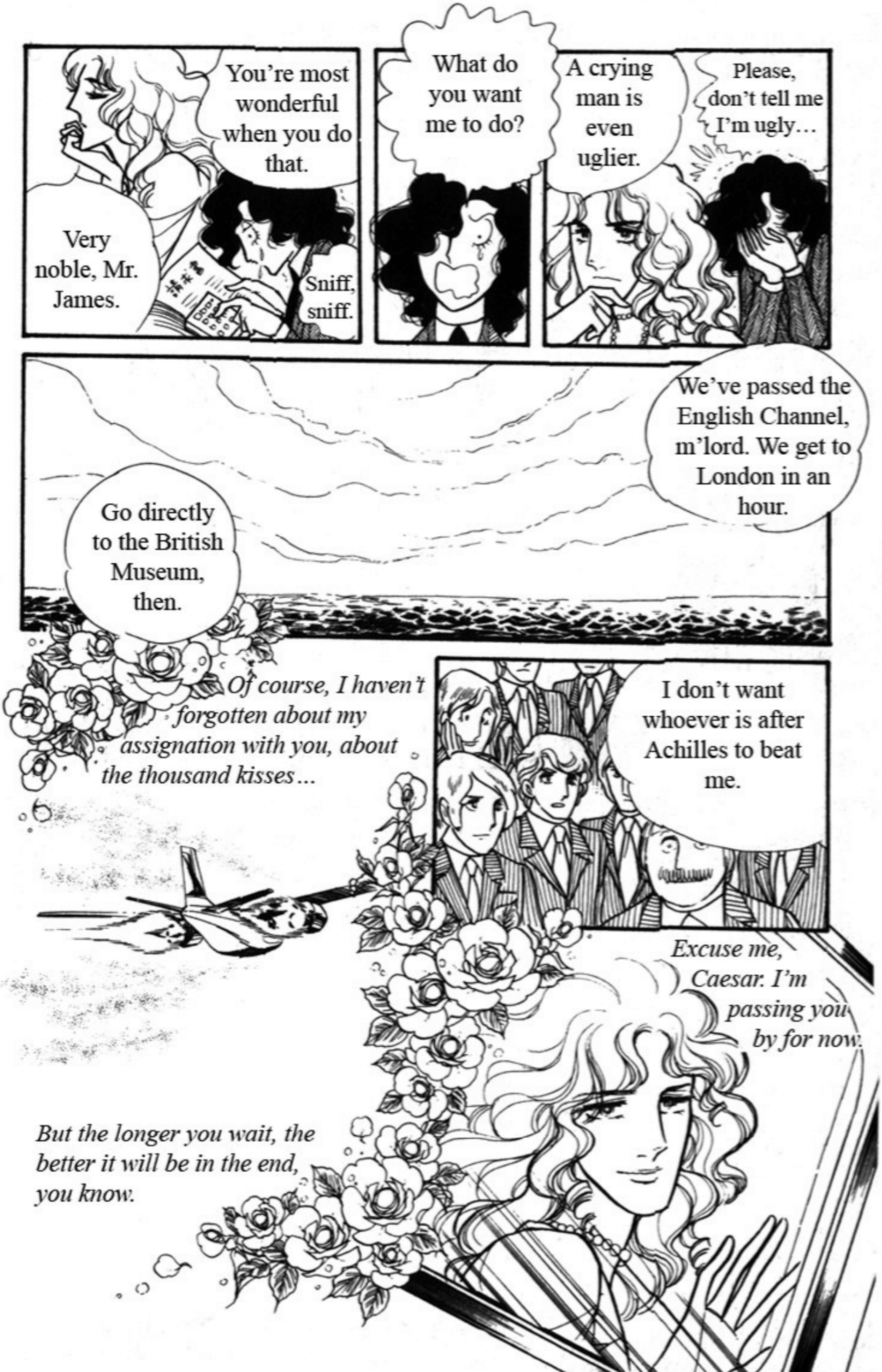

That…stuff that looks like a mini-skirt…
that flarey thing around the hips…
You mean the chiton?
Wow! Major! You know everything!
I happen to know something about the history of garments.
A man doesn't wear a mini-skirt, idiot!
Get lost and go to Alaska, you twit!
Boo hoo hoo
Should've hidden it in a better place, damn it.
All my men are so darned dense.
A subordinate's error is the responsibility of his immediate superior officer, you know.
I really sympathize with you, Major Eberbach.
SLAM
You mean you want me to go all the way to Oxford just to get that frigging information back, Chief?

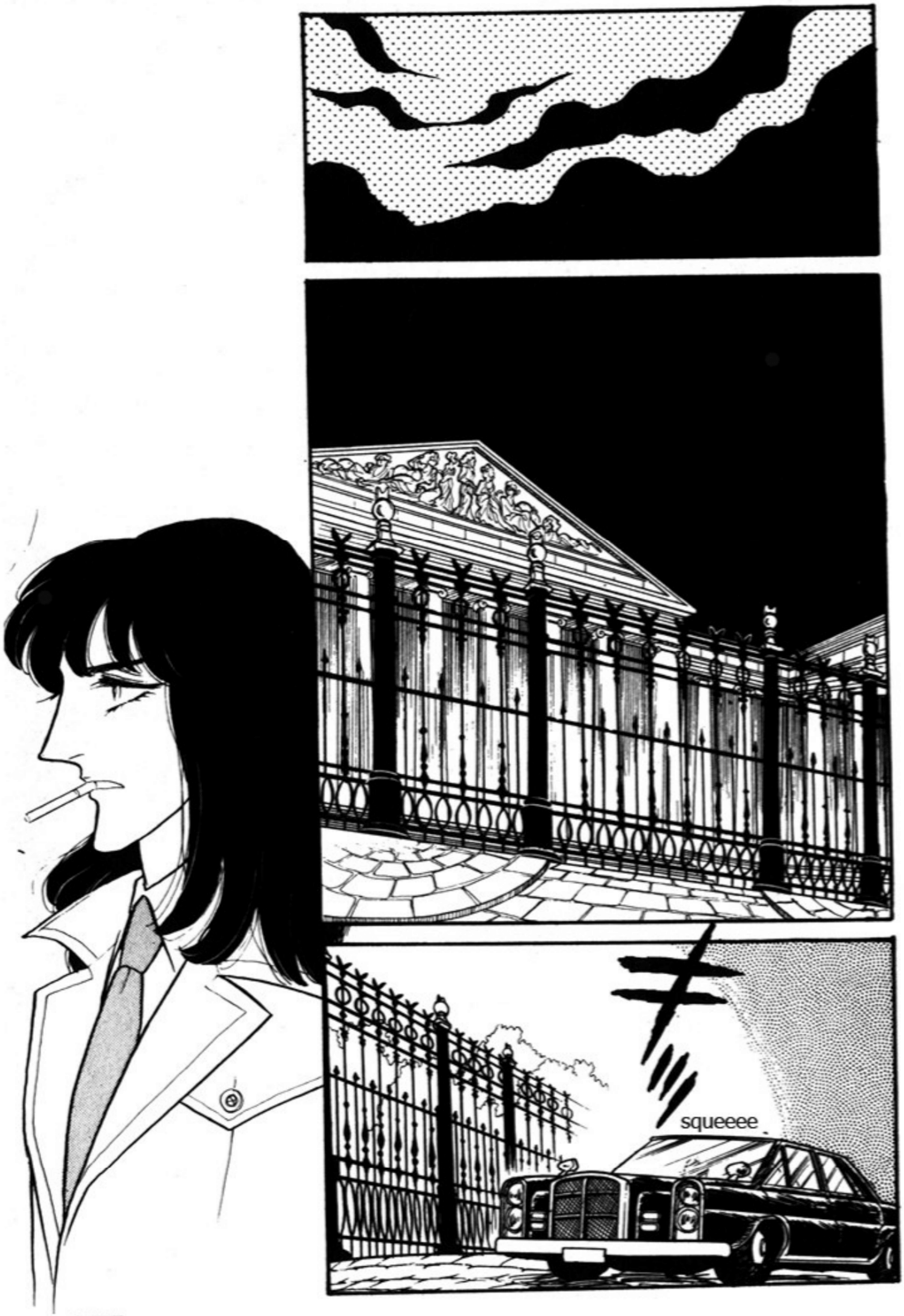

This is a *very* important mission, Major.
And I believe it suits you.
Chief, you are…
enjoying this, aren't you?
This is a mission for a lower ranker.
No, this is for *you*, Major
You want me, "Iron Klaus," to grope around under Achilles' skirt?
Don't laugh!
hee
hee
クス
クス
クス
クス
ha
ha
Subordinated don't have the right to laugh!
I think you're over-reacting.
It's just a sculpture. A mass of stone, you know.
Stone or flesh, I don't have any inclination whatsoever to flip a man's skirt!
Then, you wouldn't mind a woman's?
I *pity* you, Chief
I don't mind being pitied by an asshole. This is an order
Do it, Major

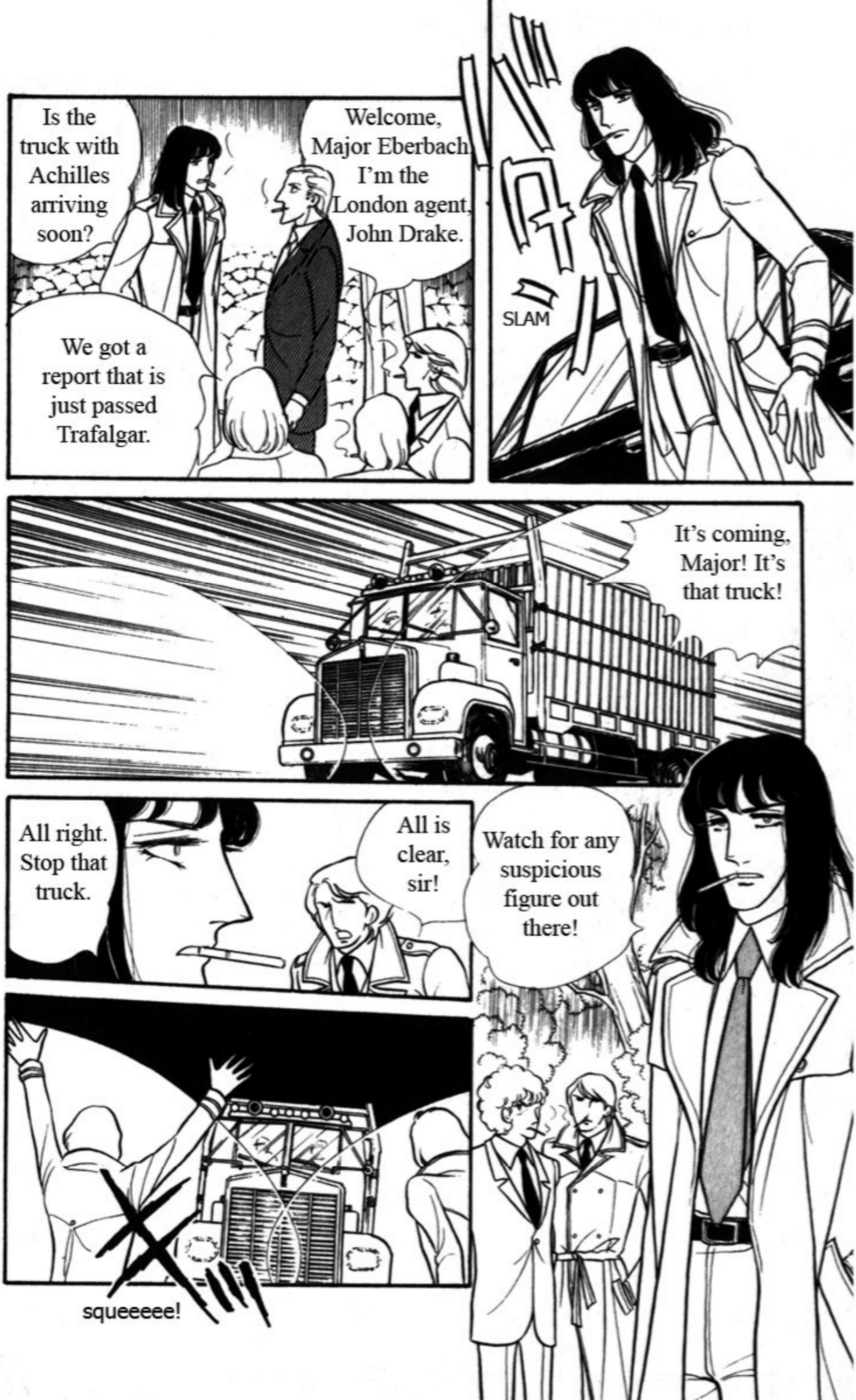

I believe you'll complete the mission.
I, Major Klaus Heinz von dem Eberbach, will bring back the MFS information.
Excuse me, Chief
Mr. A, contact Merton College.
Mr. B, send out a car.
Yes, sir.
It's all the Greeks' fault for wearing that fucking rag!
Frigging queer of a Chief!
Of all things, he's making me act like a man molester?
tromp
tromp
The indecent buggers exposed their thighs like that!
A man should never show too much!
Sir, Merton College has asked the British Museum to store the statue of Achilles.
So, we go to London, then.
The Soviets don't seem to have noticed this.
It's a very good hiding place. It's literally a blind spot.
SLAM

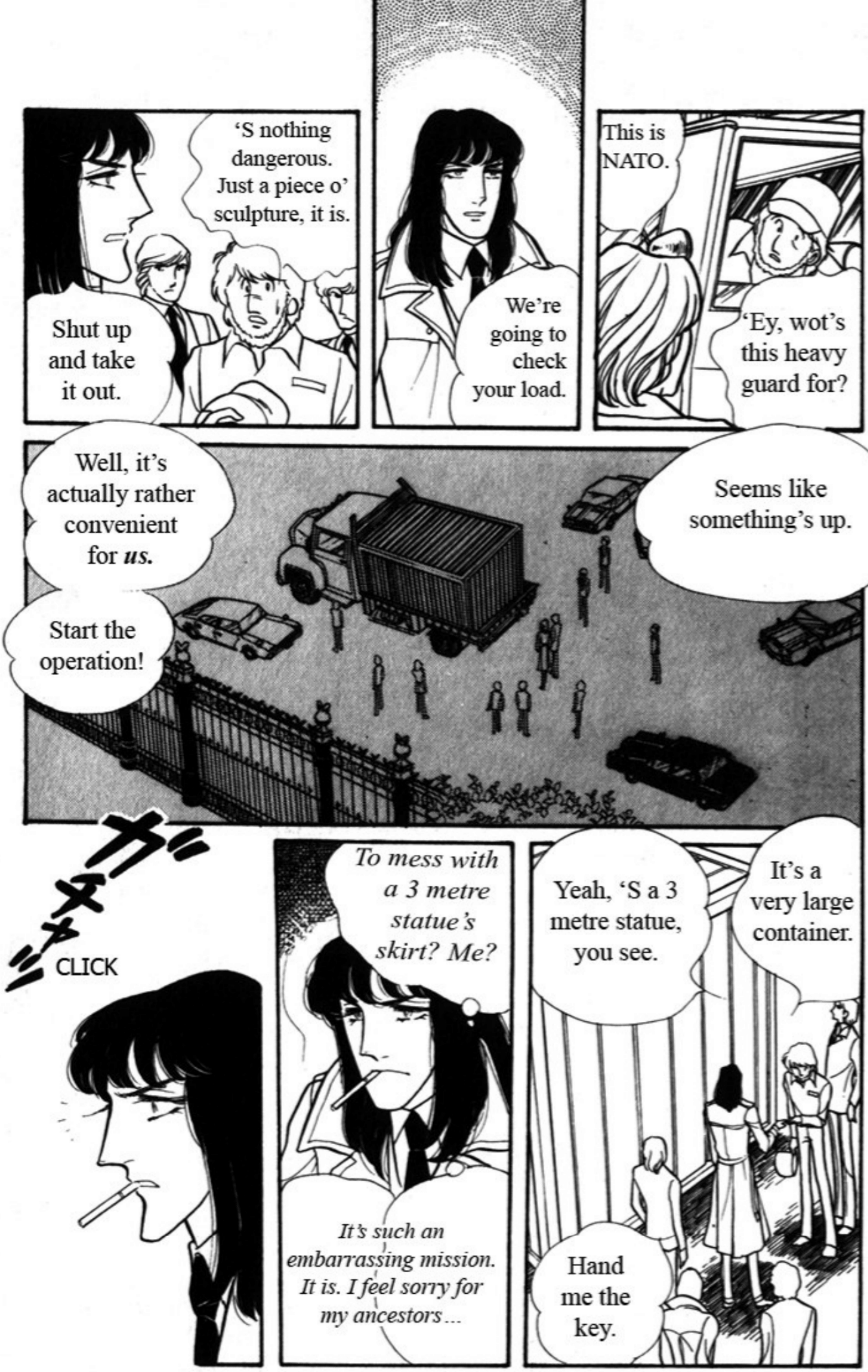

Mr. C, which side is it on? Front or back?
I'm very sorry to inform you of this but it is…
the front…
Ffron…
Won—
der—
ful…
ヴ
rrrrrrrr
M'lord, they're transporting Achilles from Oxford to the British Museum in London right now.
They're taking precautions over Achilles' safety after the trespassing incident two days ago.

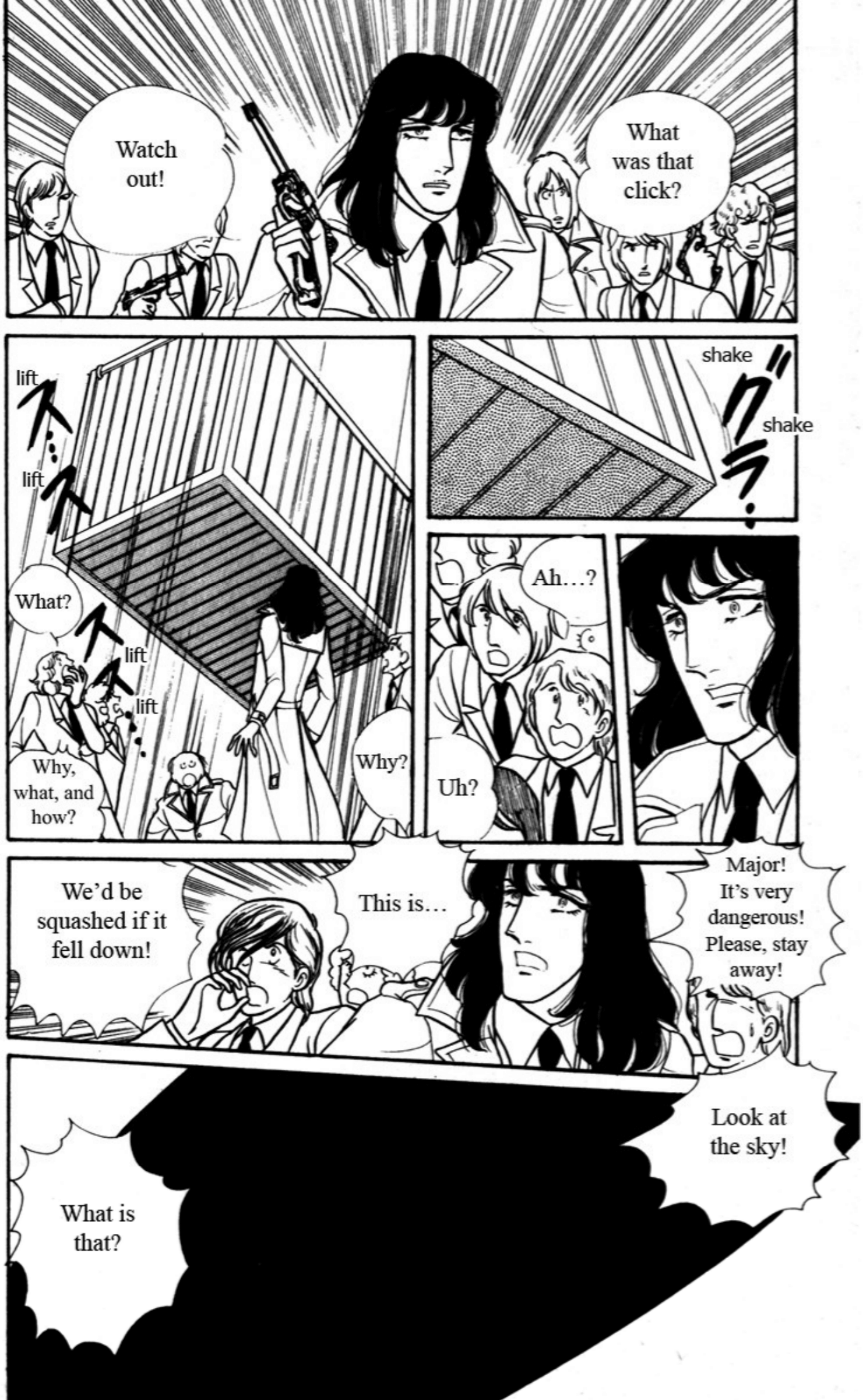

There may be others who what that statue besides me.
Hurry, will you? I don't want to miss Achilles.
London again?
Annoyed, aren't you, Mr. James?
出納帳
Because there's a very revolting boy called Caesar Gabriel in London!
Caesar… I wonder if he's gotten any "manlier" being "disciplined" my Major Eberbach and everything…
Of course he's been "disciplined"!
He's a military man, isn't he? Military is the kind of place…
Unfortunately, Major Eberbach is my complete opposite.
He's a hard-core straight.
Then, he could've used that hard core…
Stop it, Mr. James.
Nothing is uglier than a jealous man.

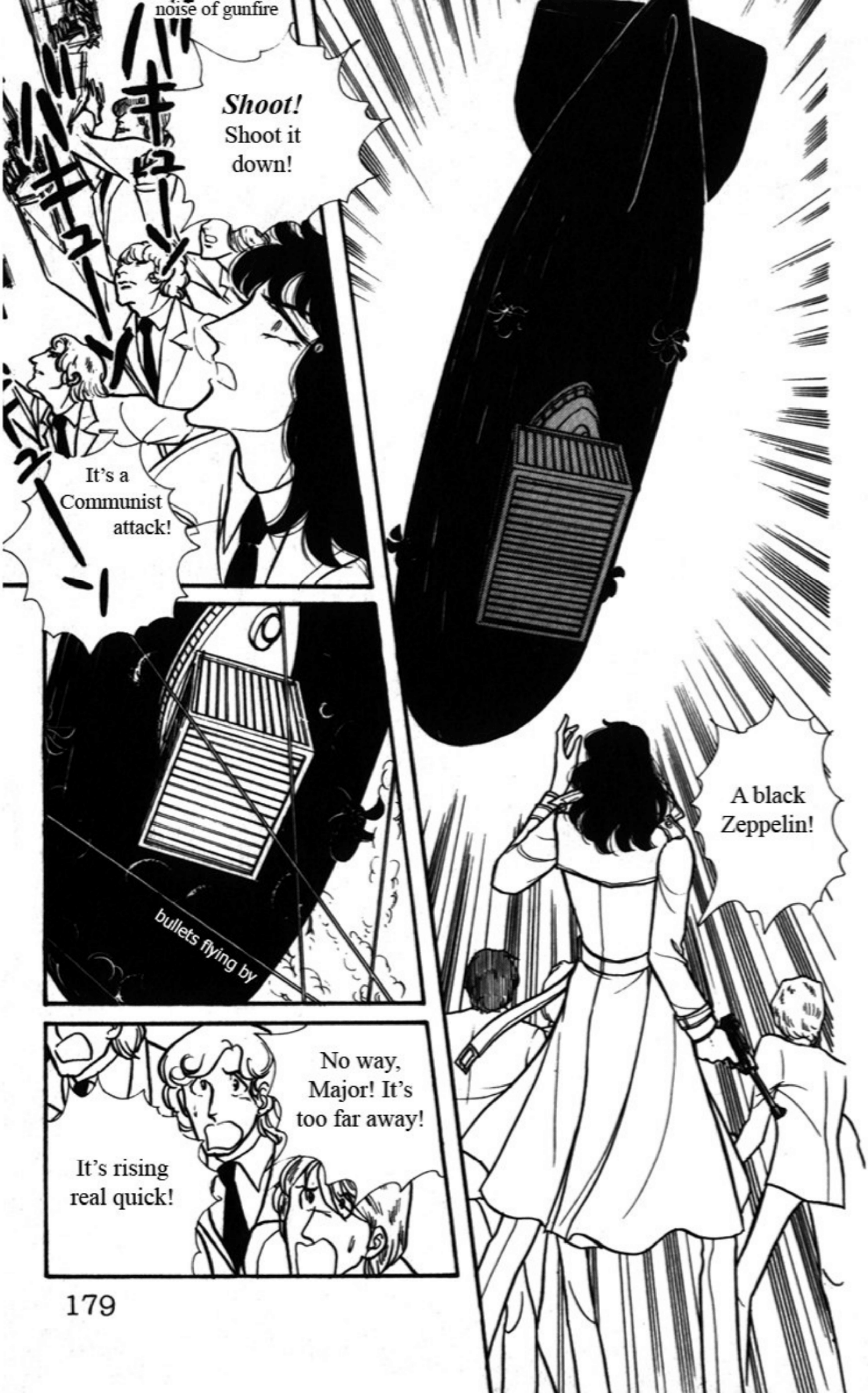

You're most wonderful when you do that.
Very noble, Mr. James.
請求書
Sniff, sniff.
What do you want me to do?
A crying man is even uglier.
Please, don't tell me I'm ugly…
We've passed the English Channel, m'lord. We get to London in an hour.
Go directly to the British Museum, then.
Of course, I haven't forgotten about my assignation with you, about the thousand kisses…
I don't want whoever is after Achilles to beat me.
Excuse me, Caesar. I'm passing you by for now.
But the longer you wait, the better it will be in the end, you know.

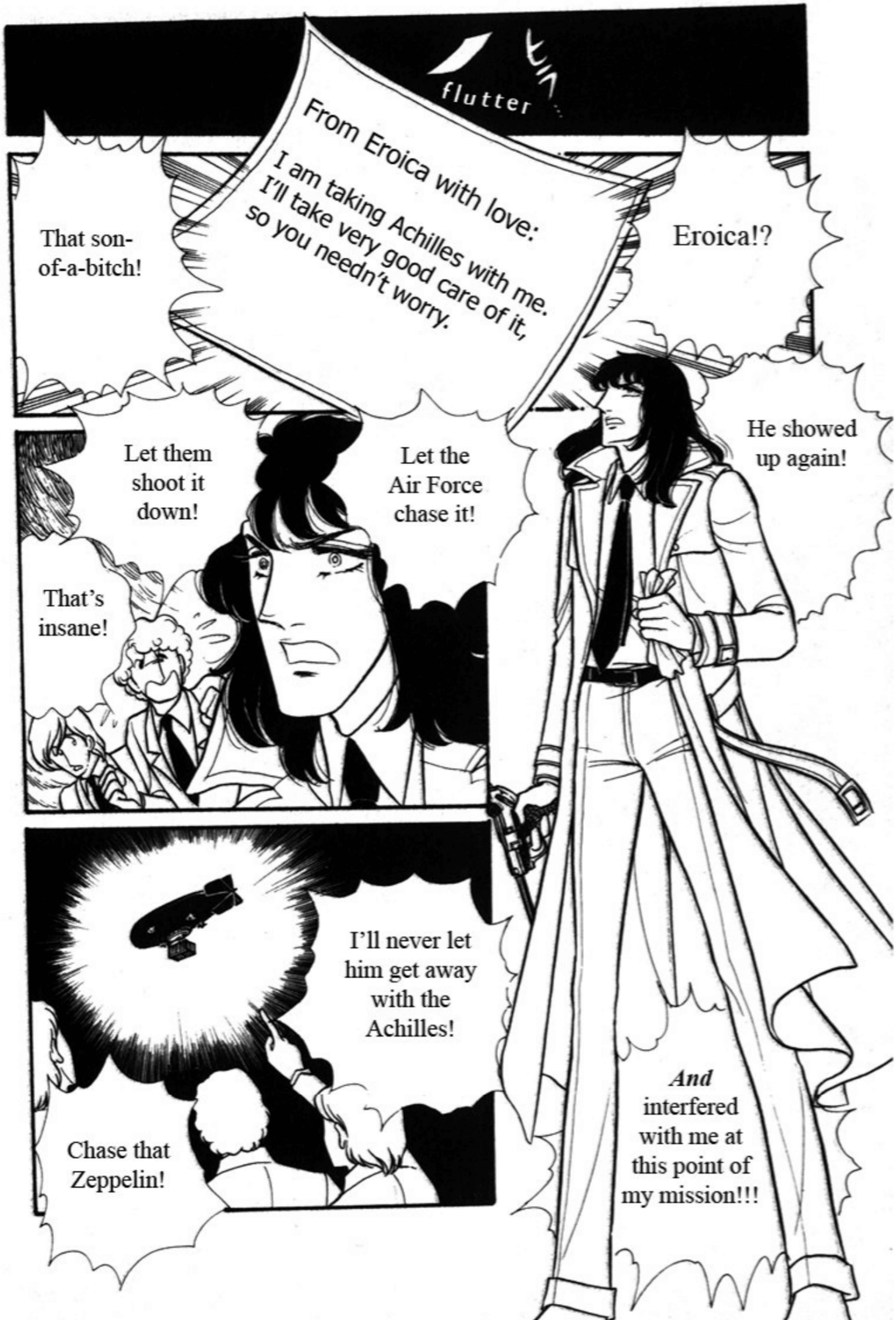

キ
squeeeee

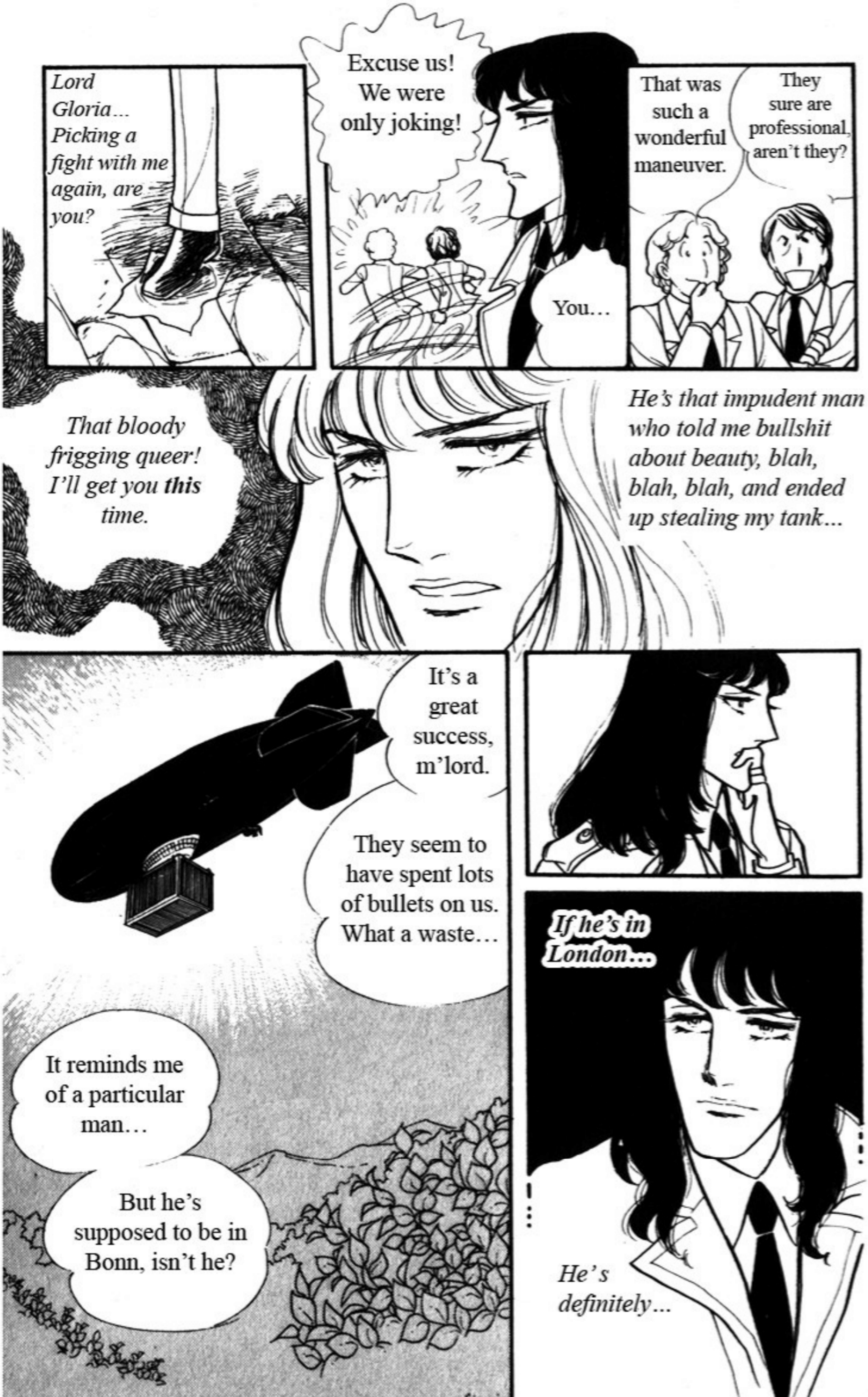

SLAM
Welcome, Major Eberbach. I'm the London agent, John Drake.
Is the truck with Achilles arriving soon?
We got a report that is just passed Trafalgar.
It's coming, Major! It's that truck!
Watch for any suspicious figure out there!
All is clear, sir!
All right. Stop that truck.
squeeeeee!

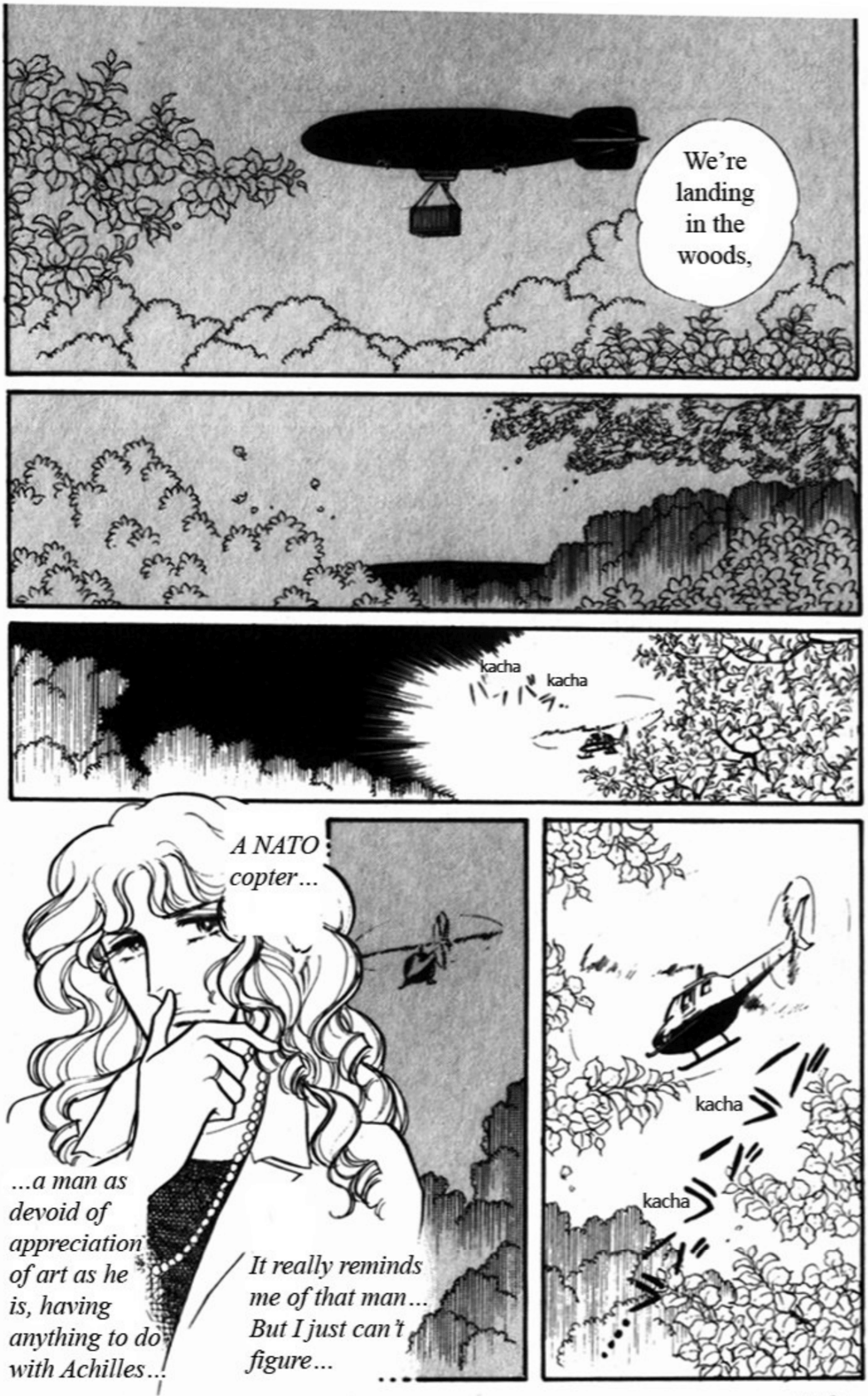

'Ey, wot's this heavy guard for?
This is NATO.
We're going to check your load.
'S nothing dangerous. Just a piece o' sculpture, it is.
Shut up and take it out.
Seems like something's up.
Well, it's actually rather convenient for *us.*
Start the operation!
It's a very large container.
Yeah, 'S a 3 metre statue, you see.
Hand me the key.
To mess with a 3 metre statue's skirt? Me?
It's such an embarrassing mission. It is. I feel sorry for my ancestors…
ガチャッ
CLICK

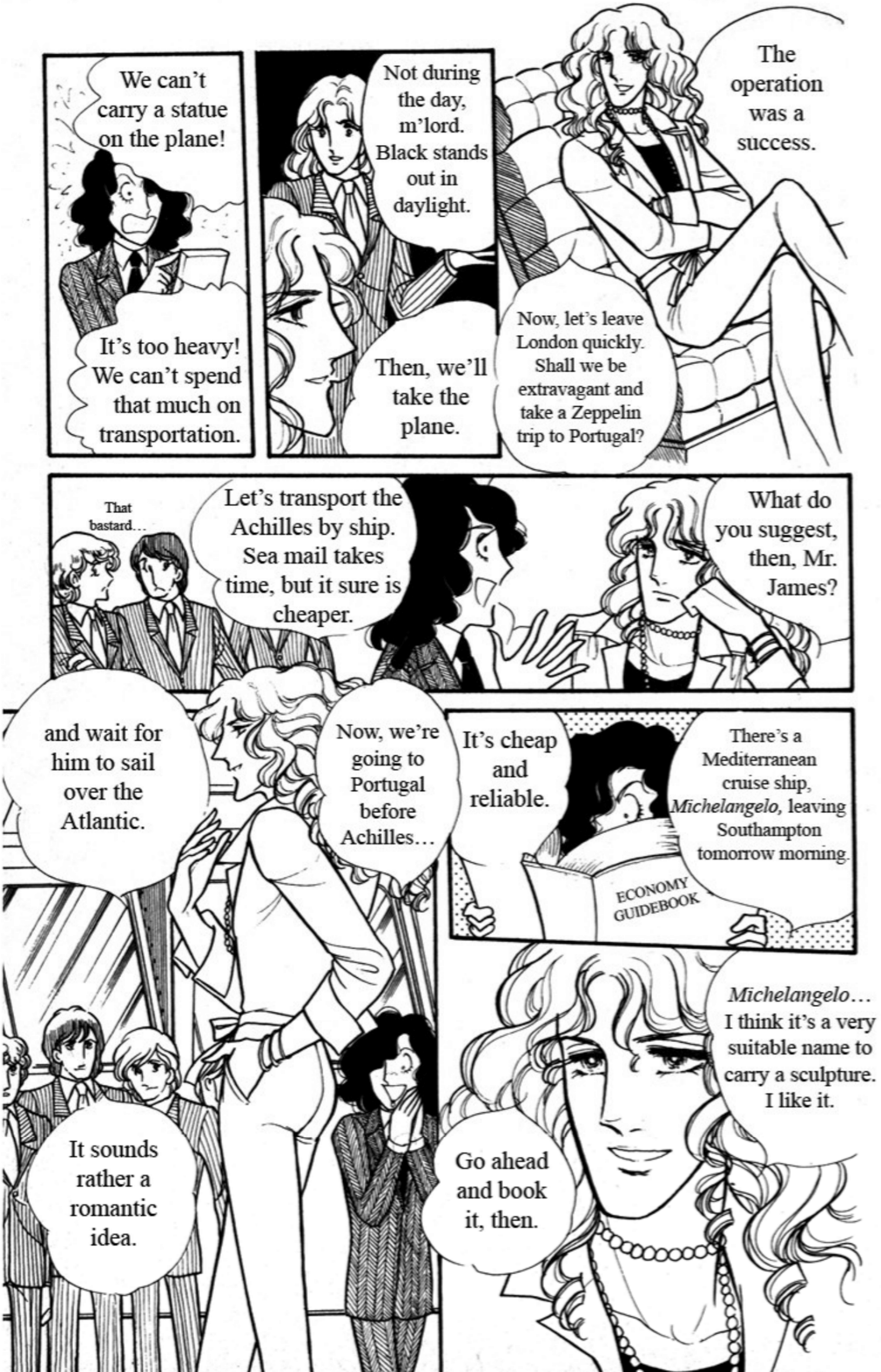

What was that click?
Watch out!
shake グラ… shake
lift ス…
lift ス
Ah…?
Uh?
What?
lift ス
lift ス…
Why?
Why, what, and how?
Major! It's very dangerous! Please, stay away!
This is…
We'd be squashed if it fell down!
Look at the sky!
What is that?

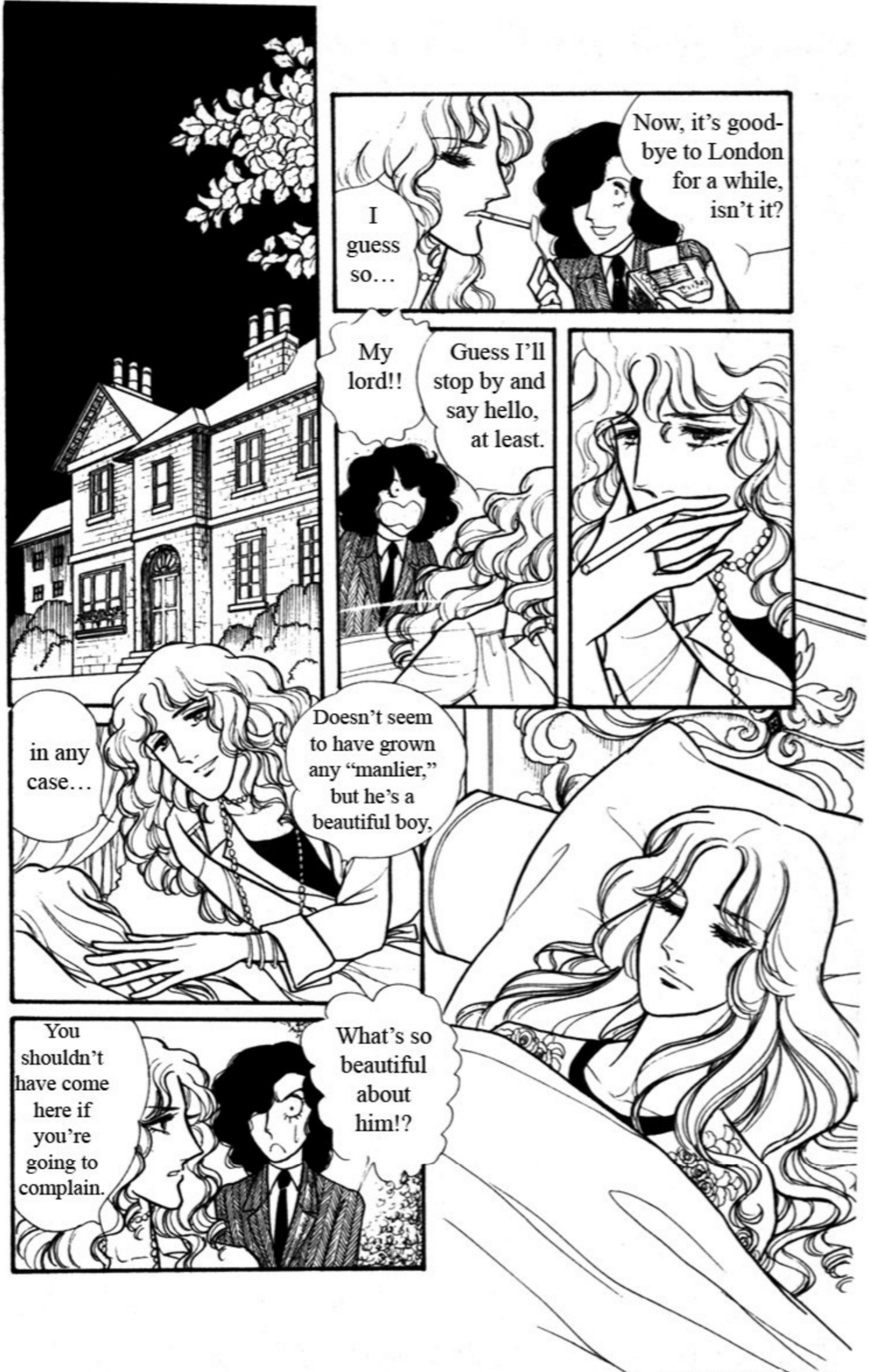

A black Zeppelin!
バキューン バキューン
noise of gunfire
Shoot! Shoot it down!
It's a Communist attack!
bullets flying by
No way, Major! It's too far away!
It's rising real quick!


flutter
From Eroica with love:
I am taking Achilles with me. I'll take very good care of it, so you needn't worry.
Eroica!?
That son-of-a-bitch!
He showed up again!
Let the Air Force chase it!
Let them shoot it down!
That's insane!
I'll never let him get away with the Achilles!
Chase that Zeppelin!
And interfered with me at this point of my mission!!!

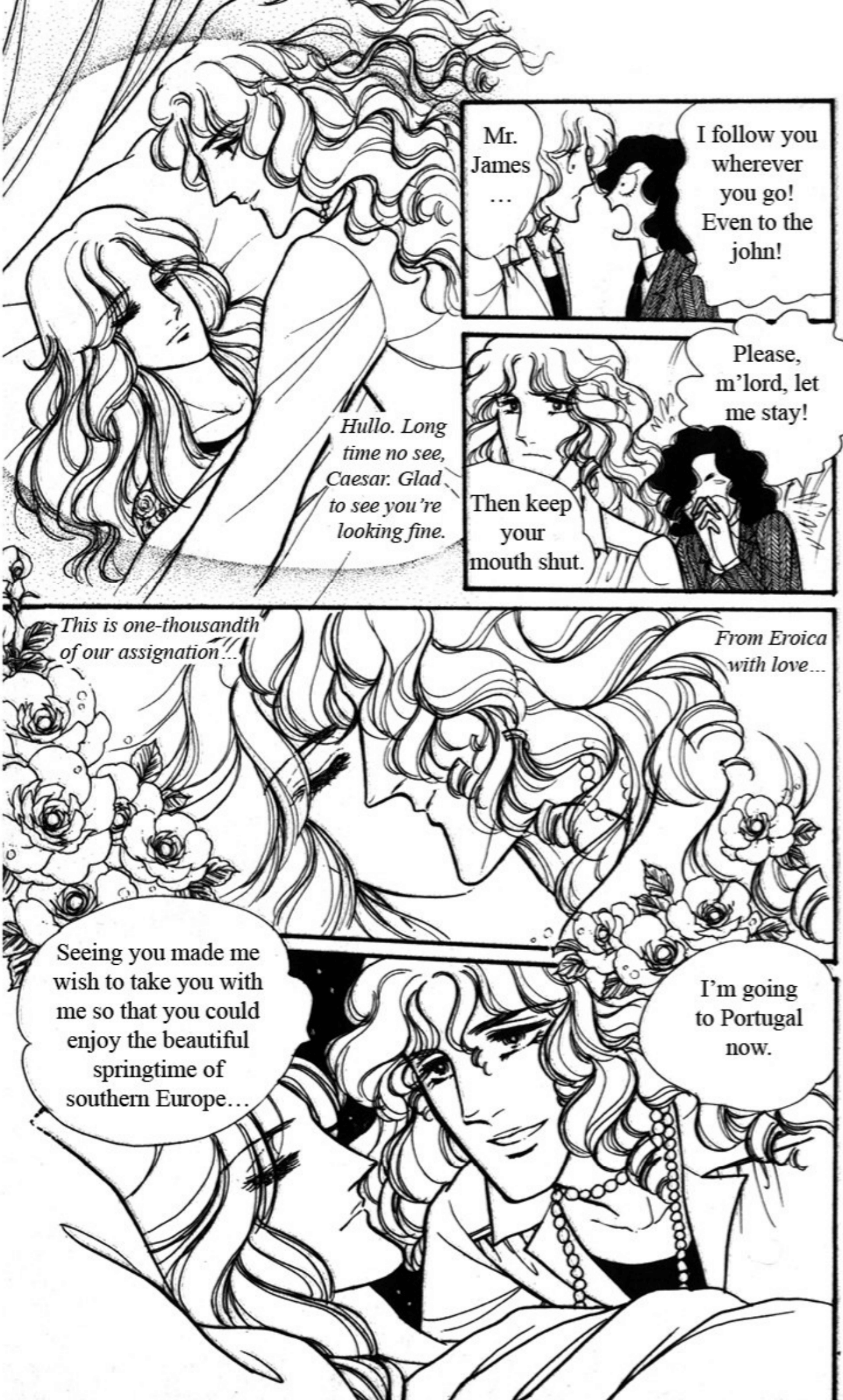

Lord Gloria… Picking a fight with me again, are you?
Excuse us! We were only joking!
You…
That was such a wonderful maneuver.
They sure are professional, aren't they?
That bloody frigging queer! I'll get you **this** time.
He's that impudent man who told me bullshit about beauty, blah, blah, blah, and ended up stealing my tank…
It's a great success, m'lord.
They seem to have spent lots of bullets on us. What a waste…
It reminds me of a particular man…
But he's supposed to be in Bonn, isn't he?
…!
If he's in London…
He's definitely…

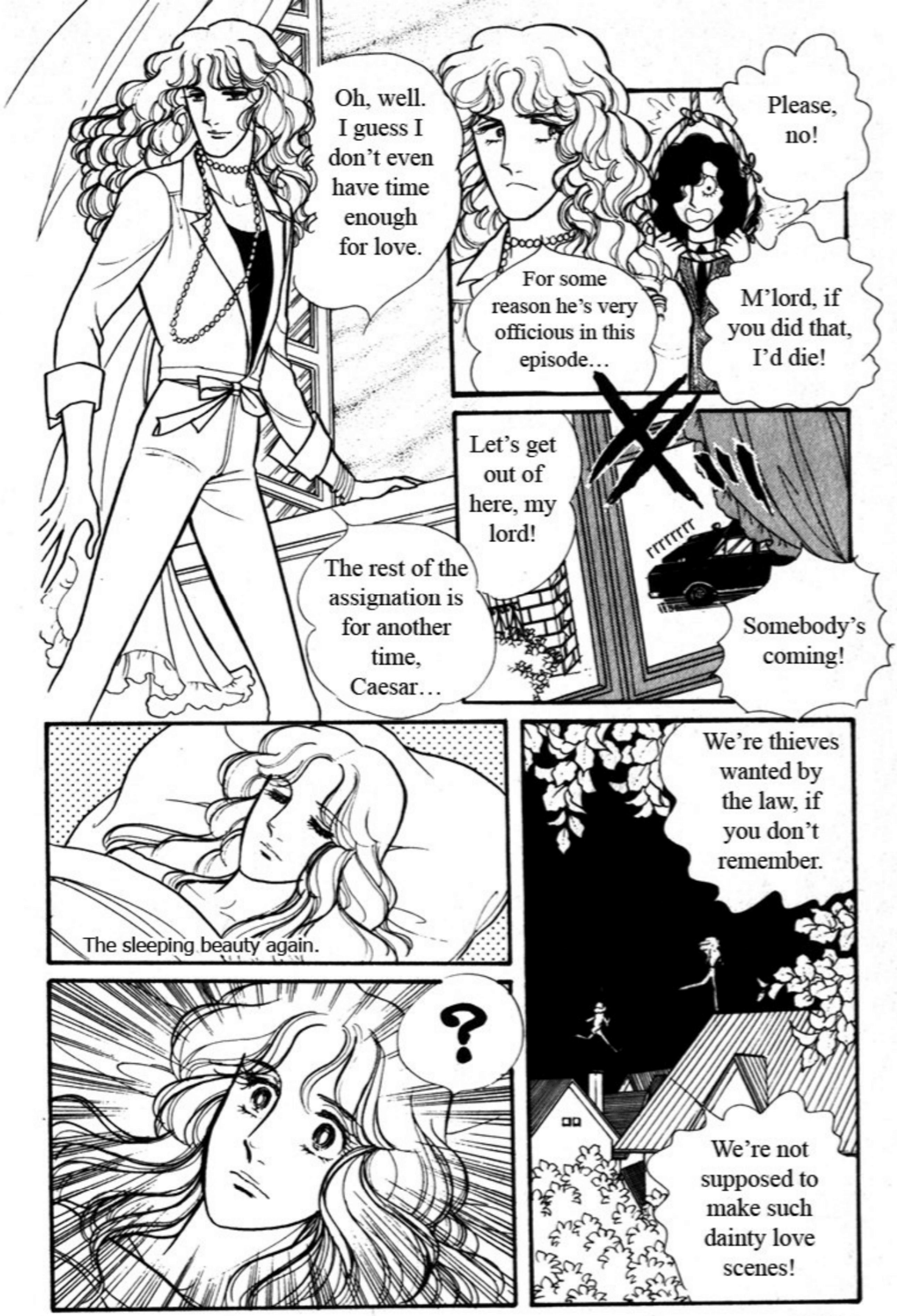

We're landing in the woods,
kacha
kacha
kacha
kacha
A NATO copter…
It really reminds me of that man… But I just can't figure…
…a man as devoid of appreciation of art as he is, having anything to do with Achilles…

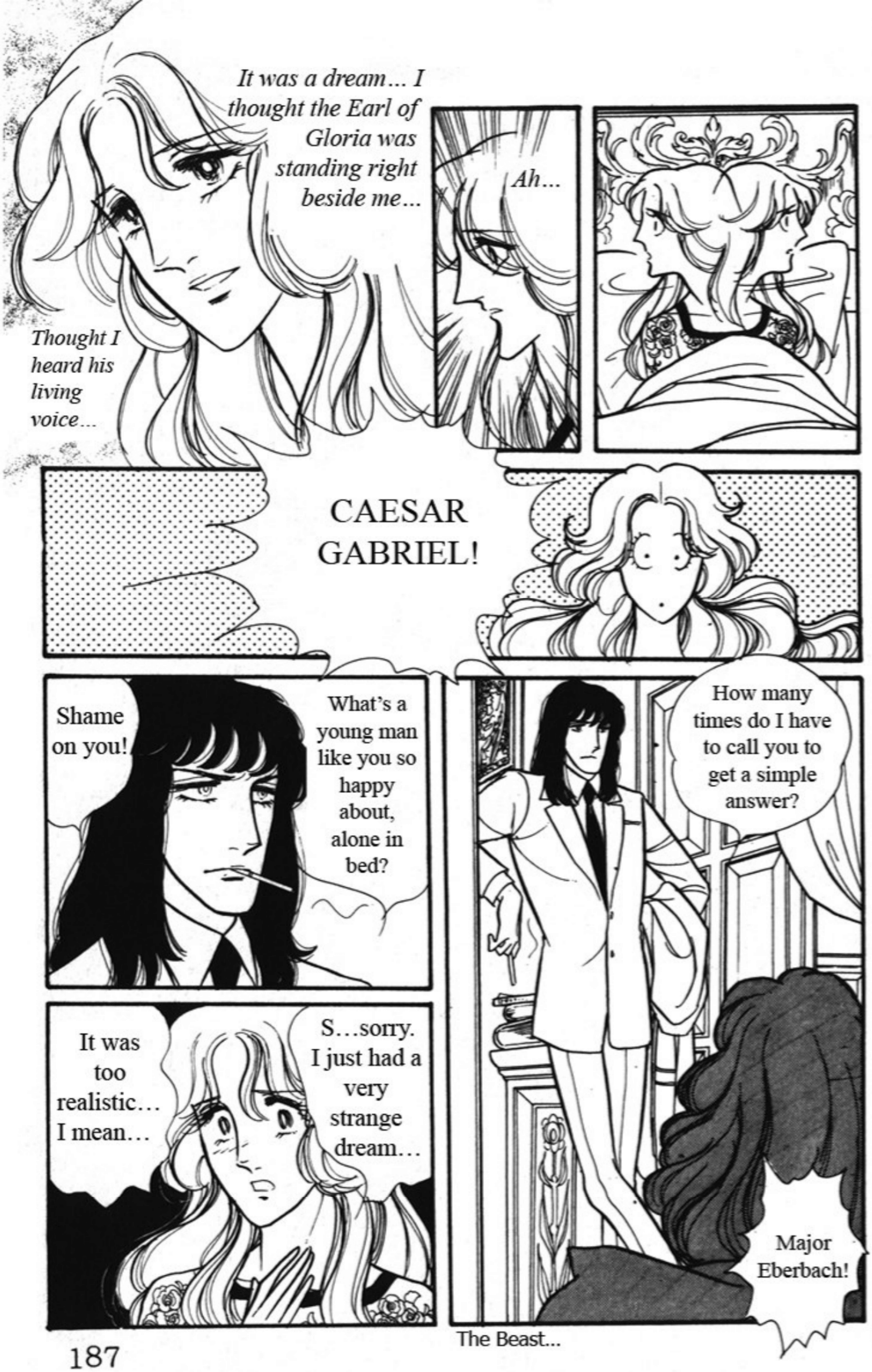

The operation was a success.
Now, let's leave London quickly. Shall we be extravagant and take a Zeppelin trip to Portugal?
Not during the day, m'lord. Black stands out in daylight.
Then, we'll take the plane.
We can't carry a statue on the plane!
It's too heavy! We can't spend that much on transportation.
What do you suggest, then, Mr. James?
Let's transport the Achilles by ship. Sea mail takes time, but it sure is cheaper.
That bastard…
There's a Mediterranean cruise ship, *Michelangelo,* leaving Southampton tomorrow morning.
ECONOMY GUIDEBOOK
It's cheap and reliable.
Michelangelo… I think it's a very suitable name to carry a sculpture. I like it.
Go ahead and book it, then.
Now, we're going to Portugal before Achilles…
and wait for him to sail over the Atlantic.
It sounds rather a romantic idea.

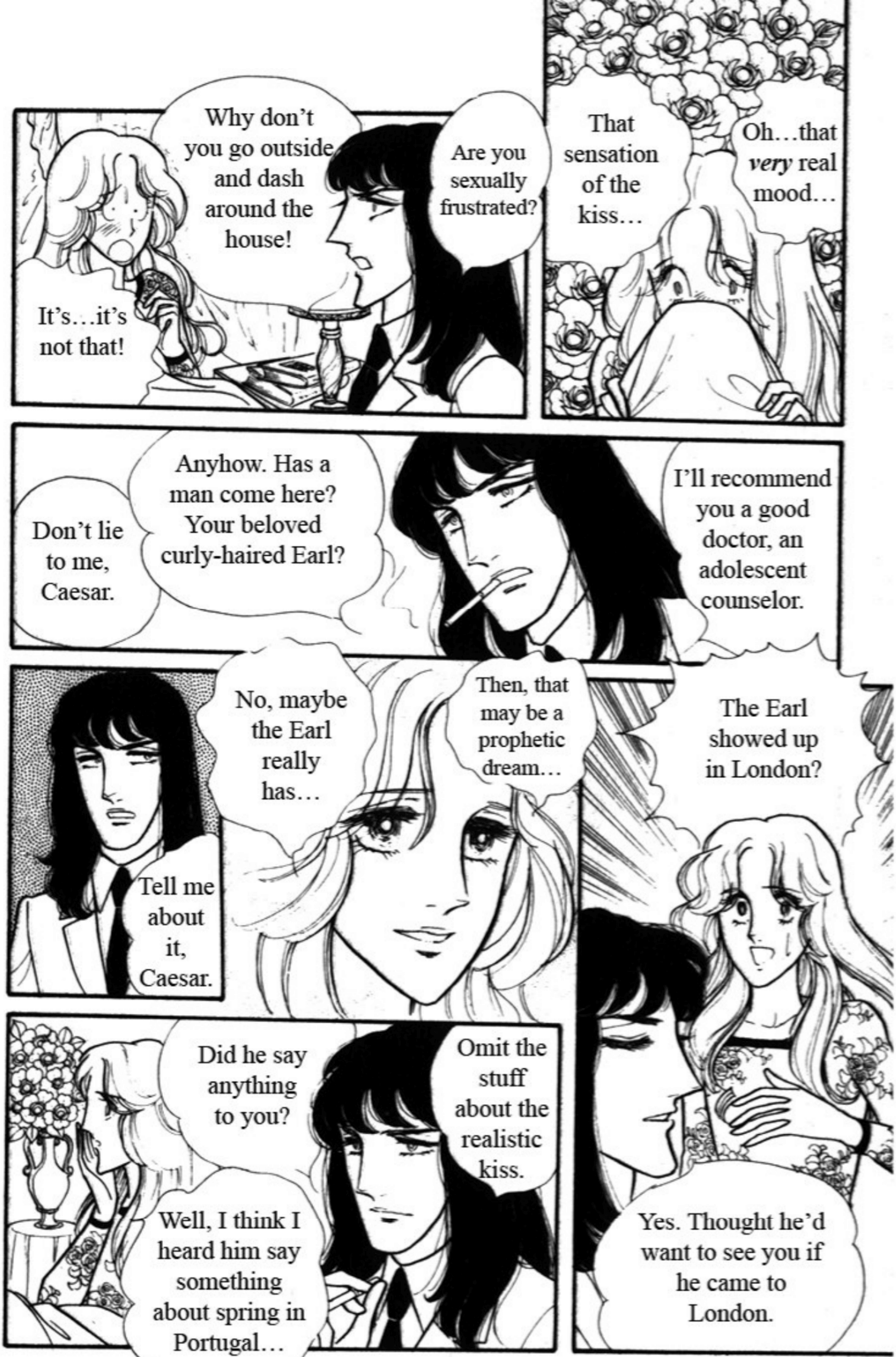

Now, it's goodbye to London for a while, isn't it?
I guess so…
Guess I'll stop by and say hello, at least.
My lord!!
Doesn't seem to have grown any "manlier," but he's a beautiful boy,
in any case…
What's so beautiful about him!?
You shouldn't have come here if you're going to complain.

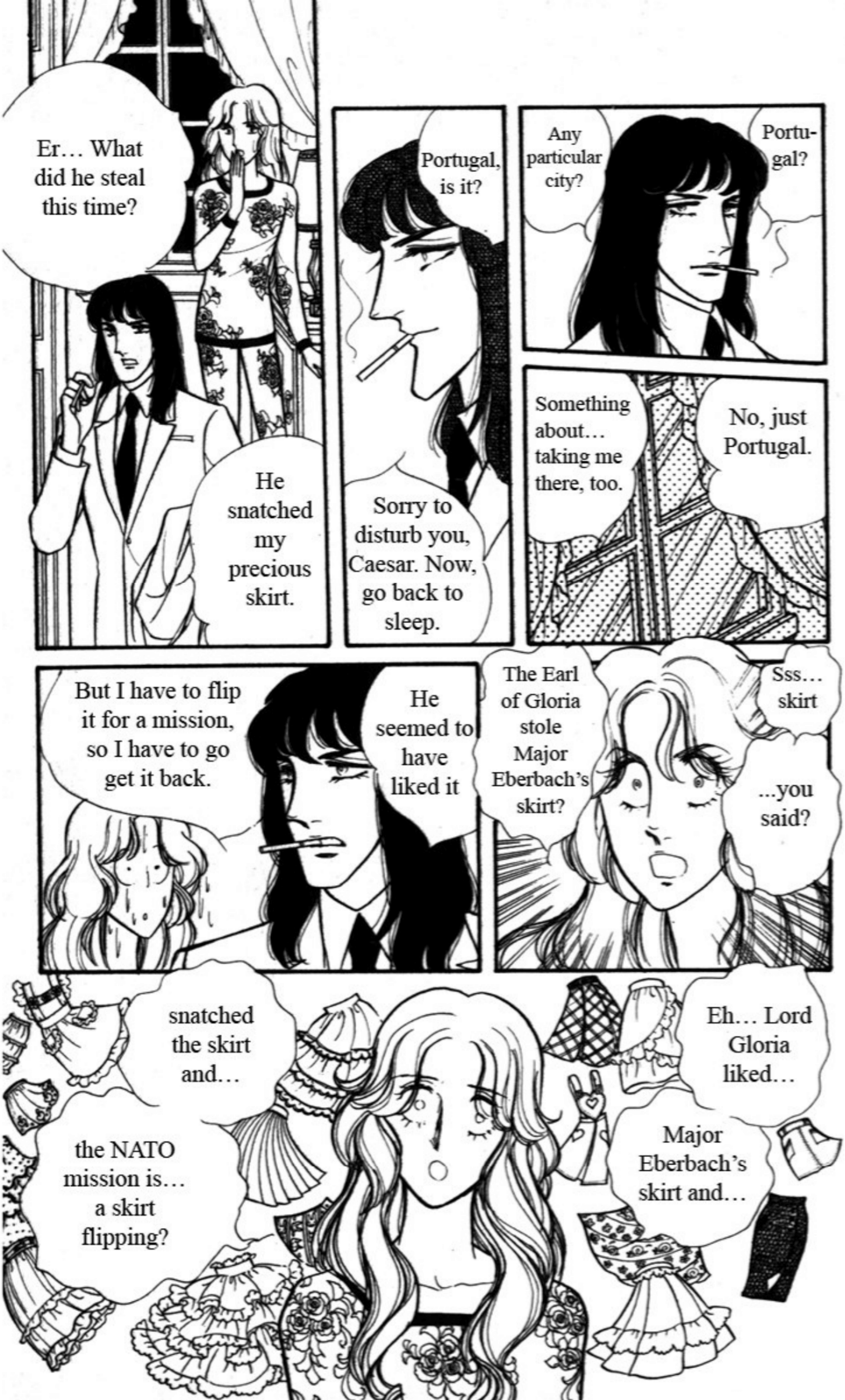
The sleeping beauty.

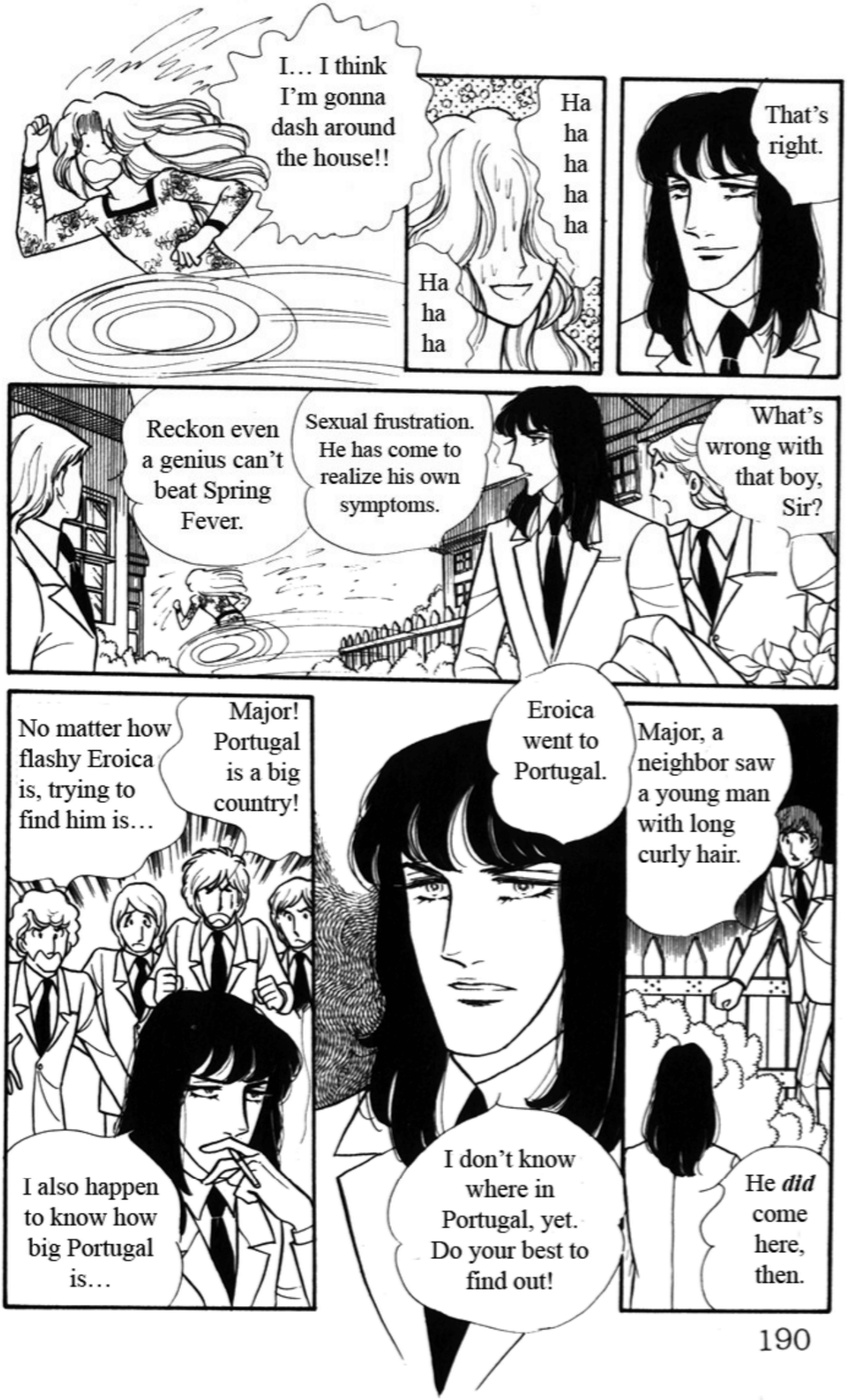

I follow you wherever you go! Even to the john!
Mr. James …
Please, m'lord, let me stay!
Then keep your mouth shut.
Hullo. Long time no see, Caesar. Glad to see you're looking fine.
From Eroica with love…
This is one-thousandth of our assignation…
I'm going to Portugal now.
Seeing you made me wish to take you with me so that you could enjoy the beautiful springtime of southern Europe…

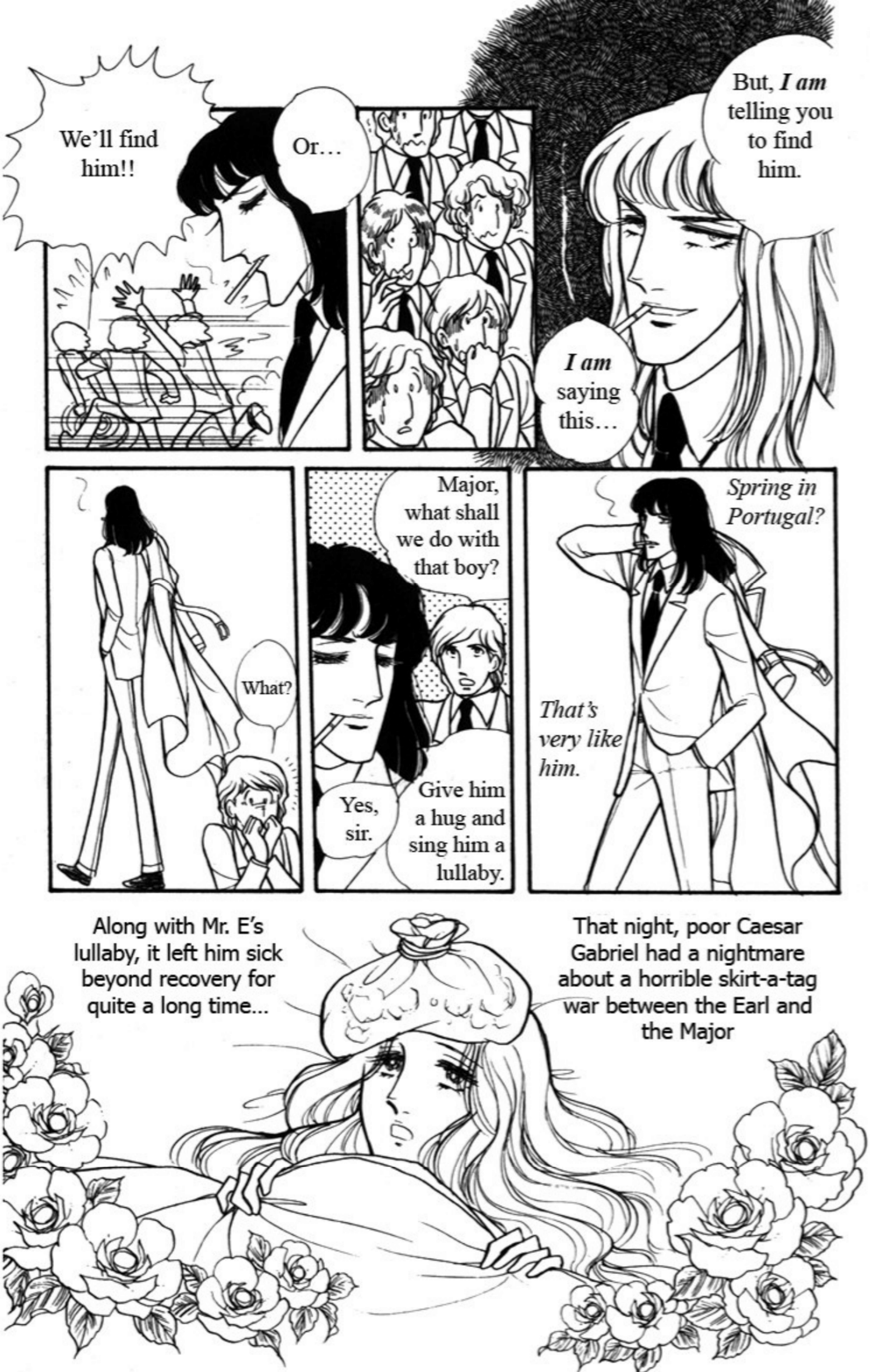

Please, no!
M'lord, if you did that, I'd die!
For some reason he's very officious in this episode…
rrrrrrr
Somebody's coming!
Let's get out of here, my lord!
Oh, well. I guess I don't even have time enough for love.
The rest of the assignation is for another time, Caesar…
We're thieves wanted by the law, if you don't remember.
We're not supposed to make such dainty love scenes!
The sleeping beauty again.
?


It was a dream… I thought the Earl of Gloria was standing right beside me…
Thought I heard his living voice…
Ah…
CAESAR GABRIEL!
Shame on you!
What's a young man like you so happy about, alone in bed?
How many times do I have to call you to get a simple answer?
It was too realistic… I mean…
S…sorry. I just had a very strange dream…
Major Eberbach!
The Beast…

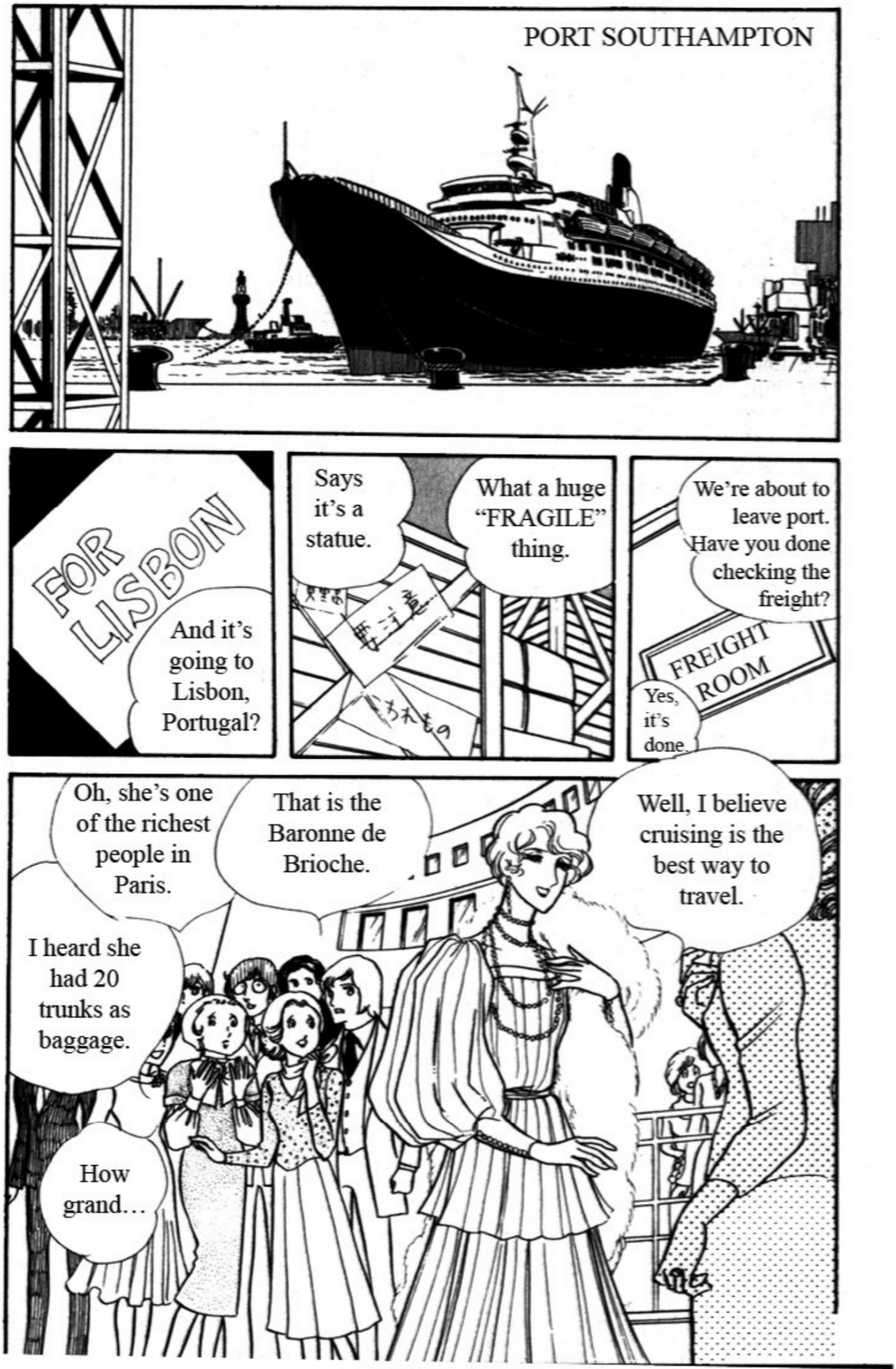

Oh…that *very* real mood…
That sensation of the kiss…
Are you sexually frustrated?
Why don't you go outside and dash around the house!
It's…it's not that!
I'll recommend you a good doctor, an adolescent counselor.
Anyhow. Has a man come here? Your beloved curly-haired Earl?
Don't lie to me, Caesar.
The Earl showed up in London?
Yes. Thought he'd want to see you if he came to London.
Then, that may be a prophetic dream…
No, maybe the Earl really has…
Tell me about it, Caesar.
Omit the stuff about the realistic kiss.
Did he say anything to you?
Well, I think I heard him say something about spring in Portugal…


Portu-gal?
Any particular city?
No, just Portugal.
Something about… taking me there, too.
Portugal, is it?
Sorry to disturb you, Caesar. Now, go back to sleep.
Er… What did he steal this time?
He snatched my precious skirt.
Sss… skirt
...you said?
The Earl of Gloria stole Major Eberbach's skirt?
He seemed to have liked it
But I have to flip it for a mission, so I have to go get it back.
Eh… Lord Gloria liked…
Major Eberbach's skirt and…
snatched the skirt and…
the NATO mission is… a skirt flipping?

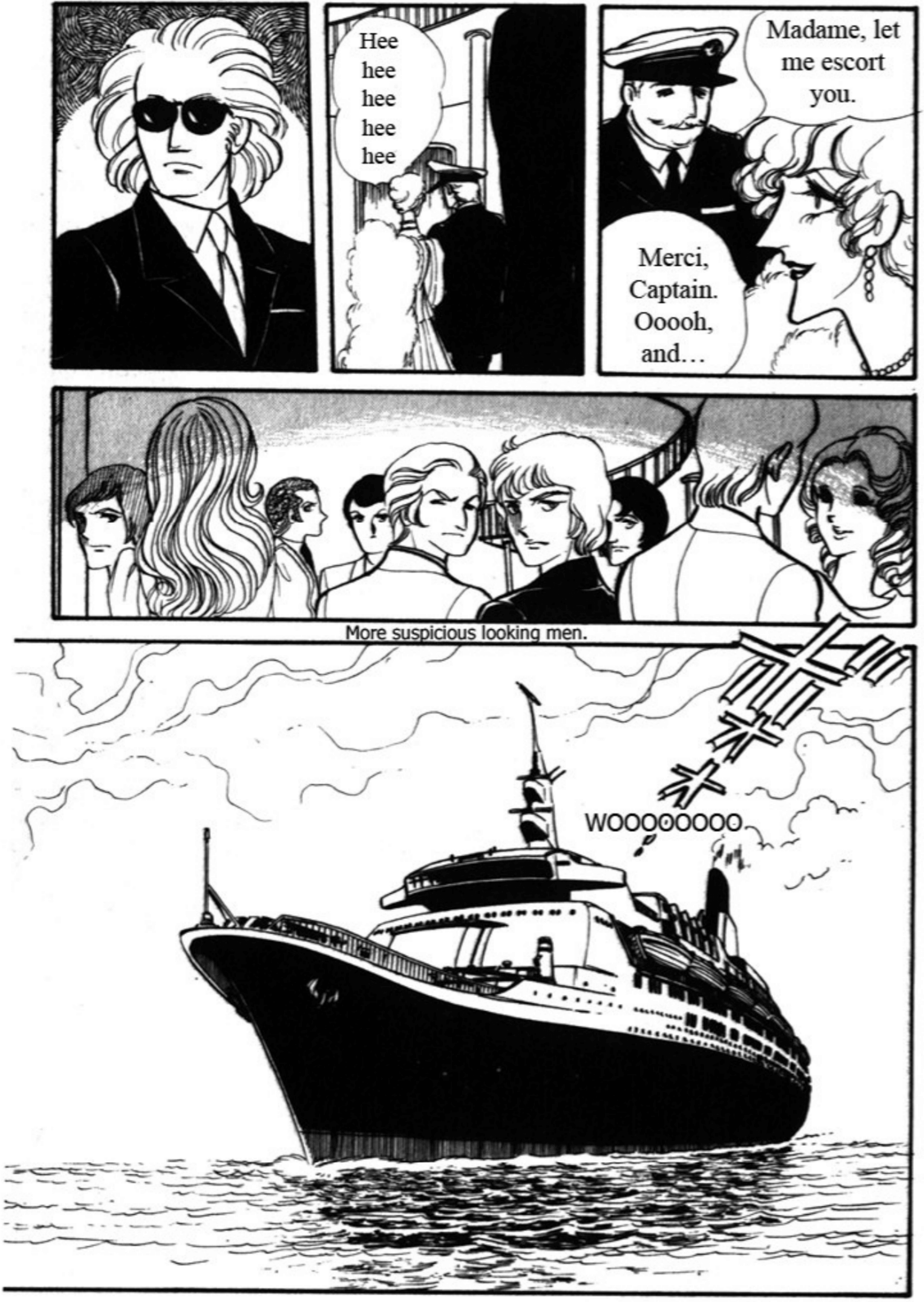

That's right.
Ha ha ha ha ha
Ha ha ha
I… I think I'm gonna dash around the house!!
What's wrong with that boy, Sir?
Sexual frustration. He has come to realize his own symptoms.
Reckon even a genius can't beat Spring Fever.
Major, a neighbor saw a young man with long curly hair.
He *did* come here, then.
Eroica went to Portugal.
I don't know where in Portugal, yet. Do your best to find out!
Major! Portugal is a big country!
No matter how flashy Eroica is, trying to find him is…
I also happen to know how big Portugal is…


We'll find him!!
Or…
But, *I am* telling you to find him.
I am saying this…
What?
Major, what shall we do with that boy?
Give him a hug and sing him a lullaby.
Yes, sir.
Spring in Portugal?
That's very like him.
That night, poor Caesar Gabriel had a nightmare about a horrible skirt-a-tag war between the Earl and the Major
Along with Mr. E's lullaby, it left him sick beyond recovery for quite a long time…

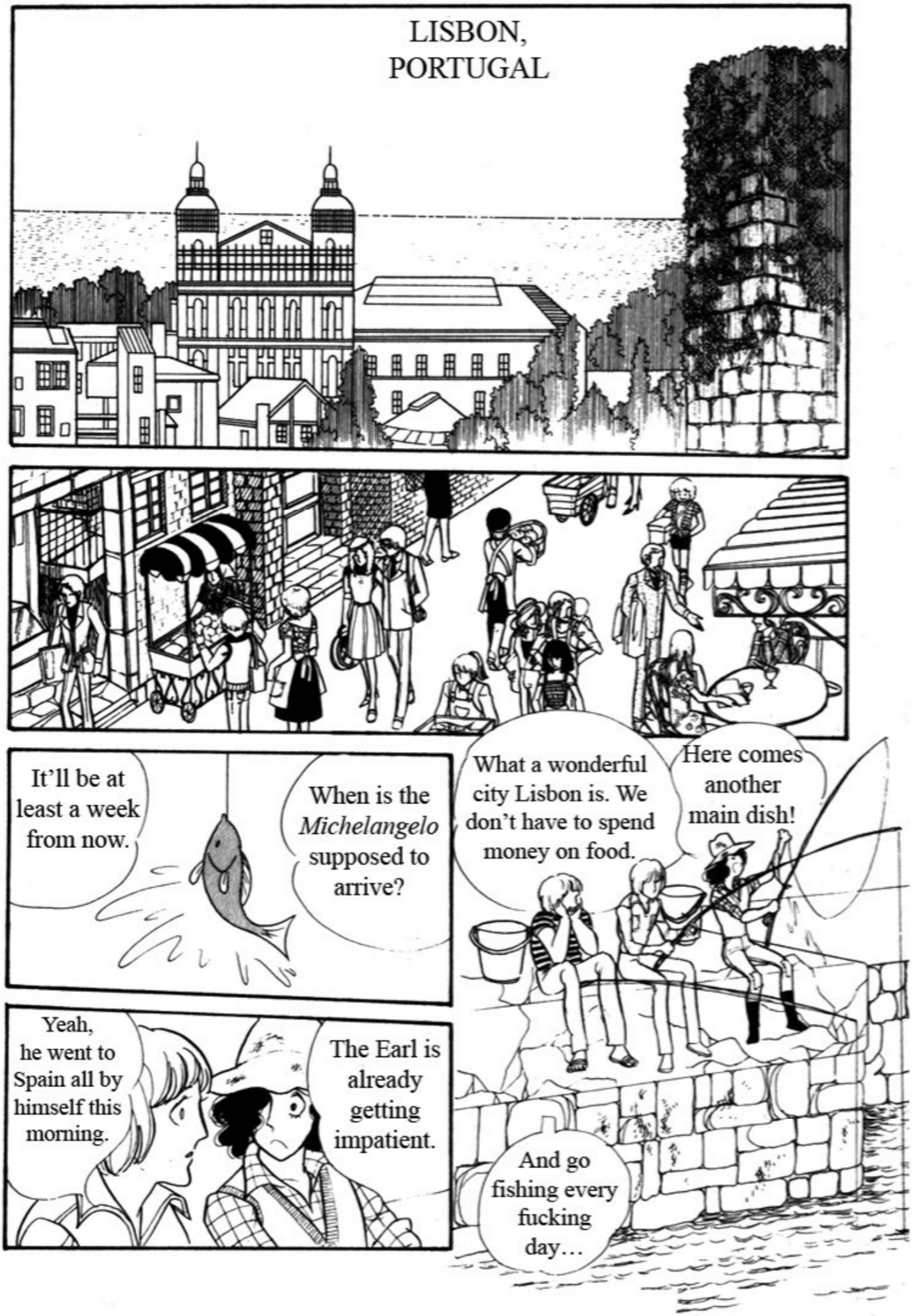
Actually, for the rest of the **EROICA** series…

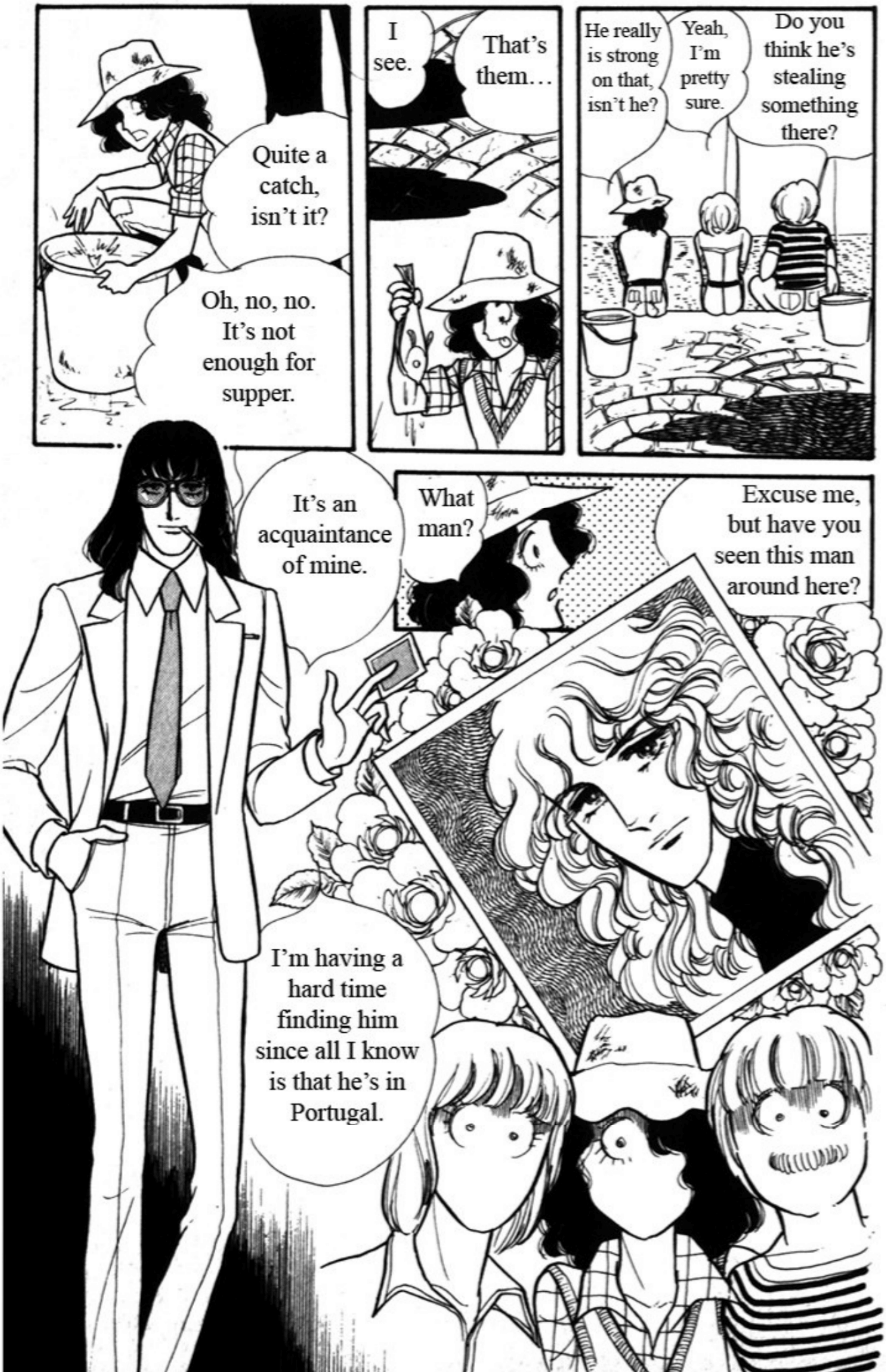

PORT SOUTHAMPTON
We're about to leave port. Have you done checking the freight?
FREIGHT ROOM
Yes, it's done.
What a huge "FRAGILE" thing.
Says it's a statue.
こわれもの
FOR LISBON
And it's going to Lisbon, Portugal?
Well, I believe cruising is the best way to travel.
That is the Baronne de Brioche.
Oh, she's one of the richest people in Paris.
I heard she had 20 trunks as baggage.
How grand…

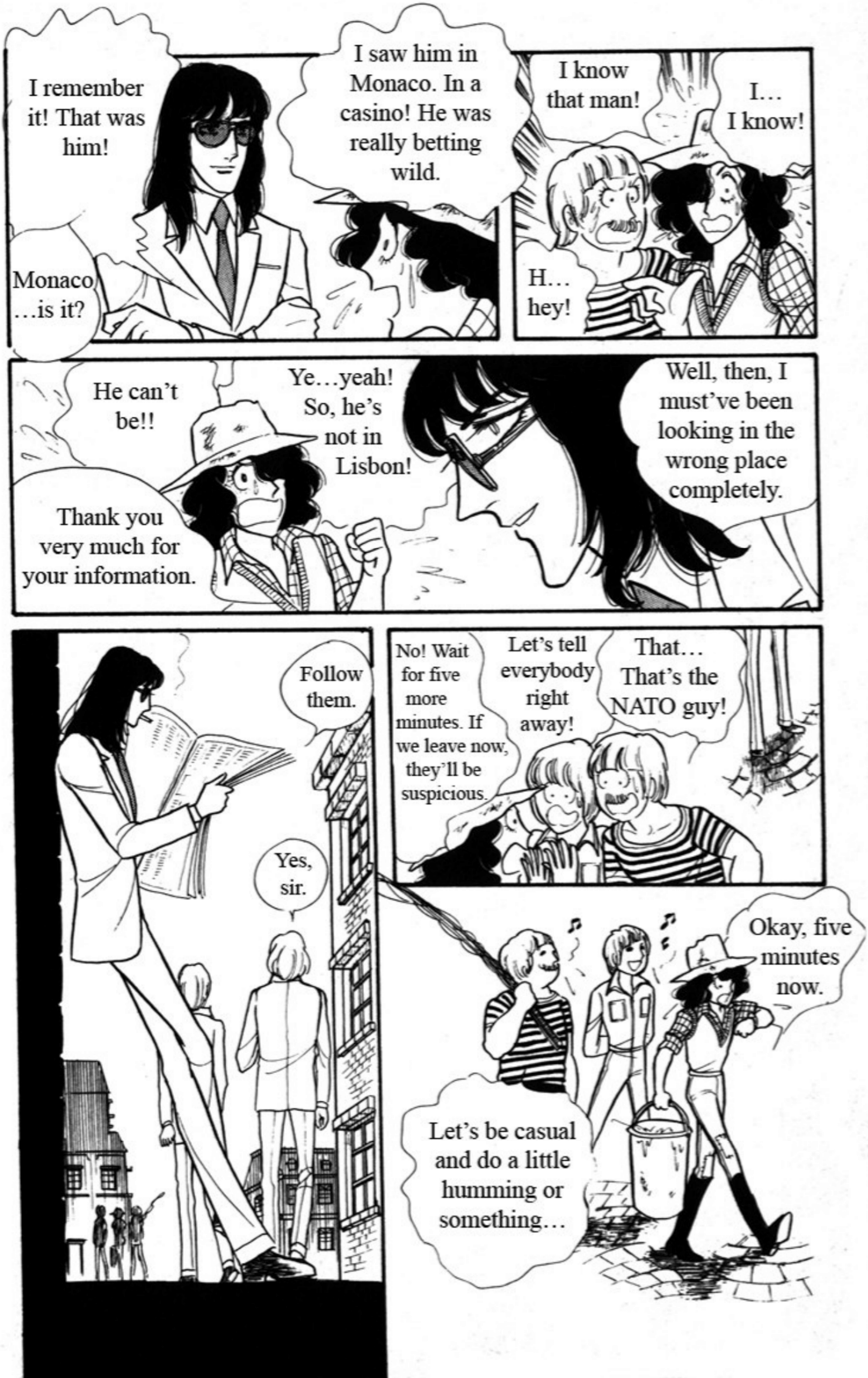
Suspicious looking man with classic dark glasses.

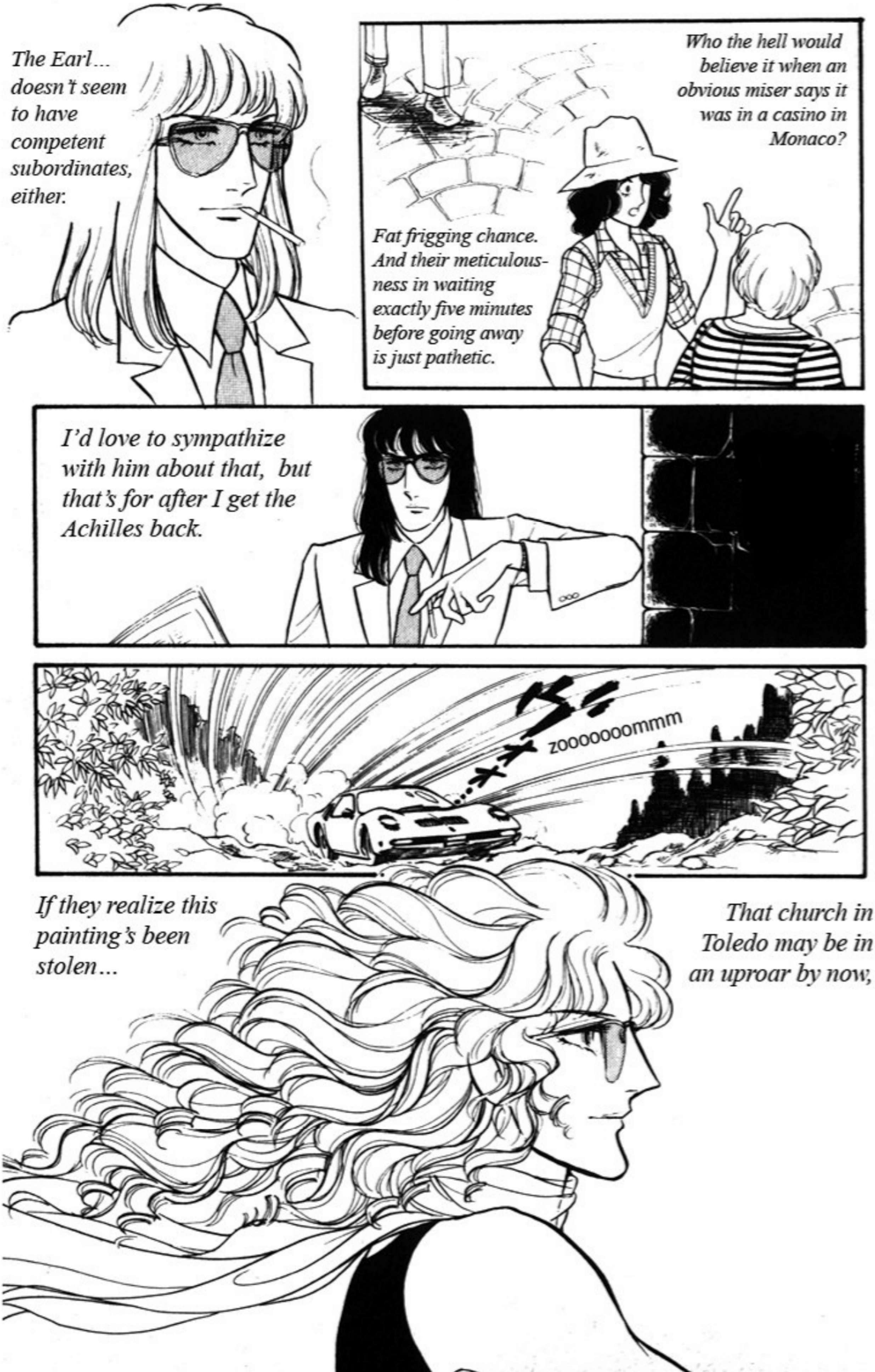

Madame, let me escort you.
Merci, Captain. Ooooh, and…
Hee hee hee hee hee
WOOOOOOOO

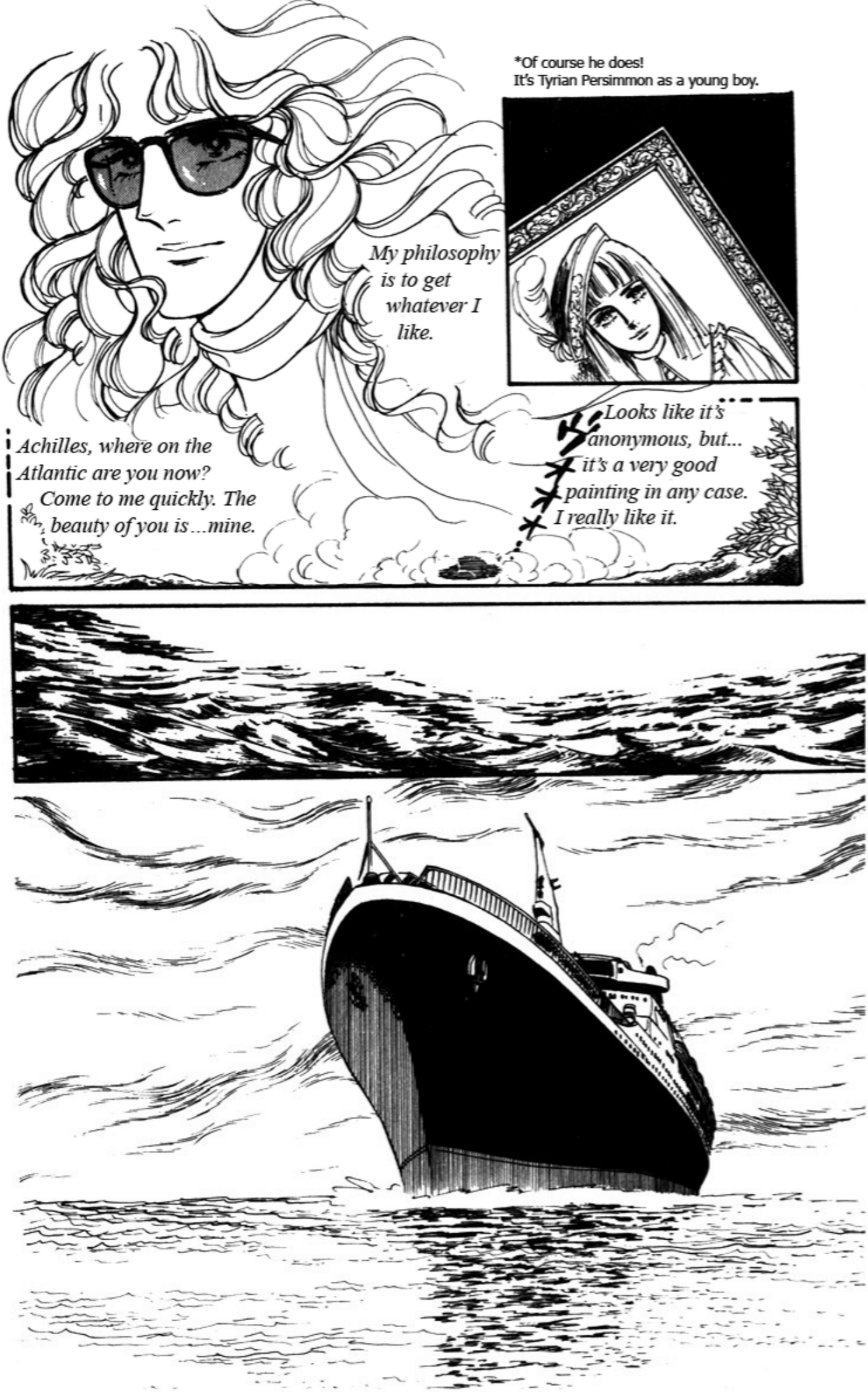
More suspicious looking men.


LISBON, PORTUGAL
Here comes another main dish!
What a wonderful city Lisbon is. We don't have to spend money on food.
And go fishing every fucking day…
When is the *Michelangelo* supposed to arrive?
It'll be at least a week from now.
The Earl is already getting impatient.
Yeah, he went to Spain all by himself this morning.

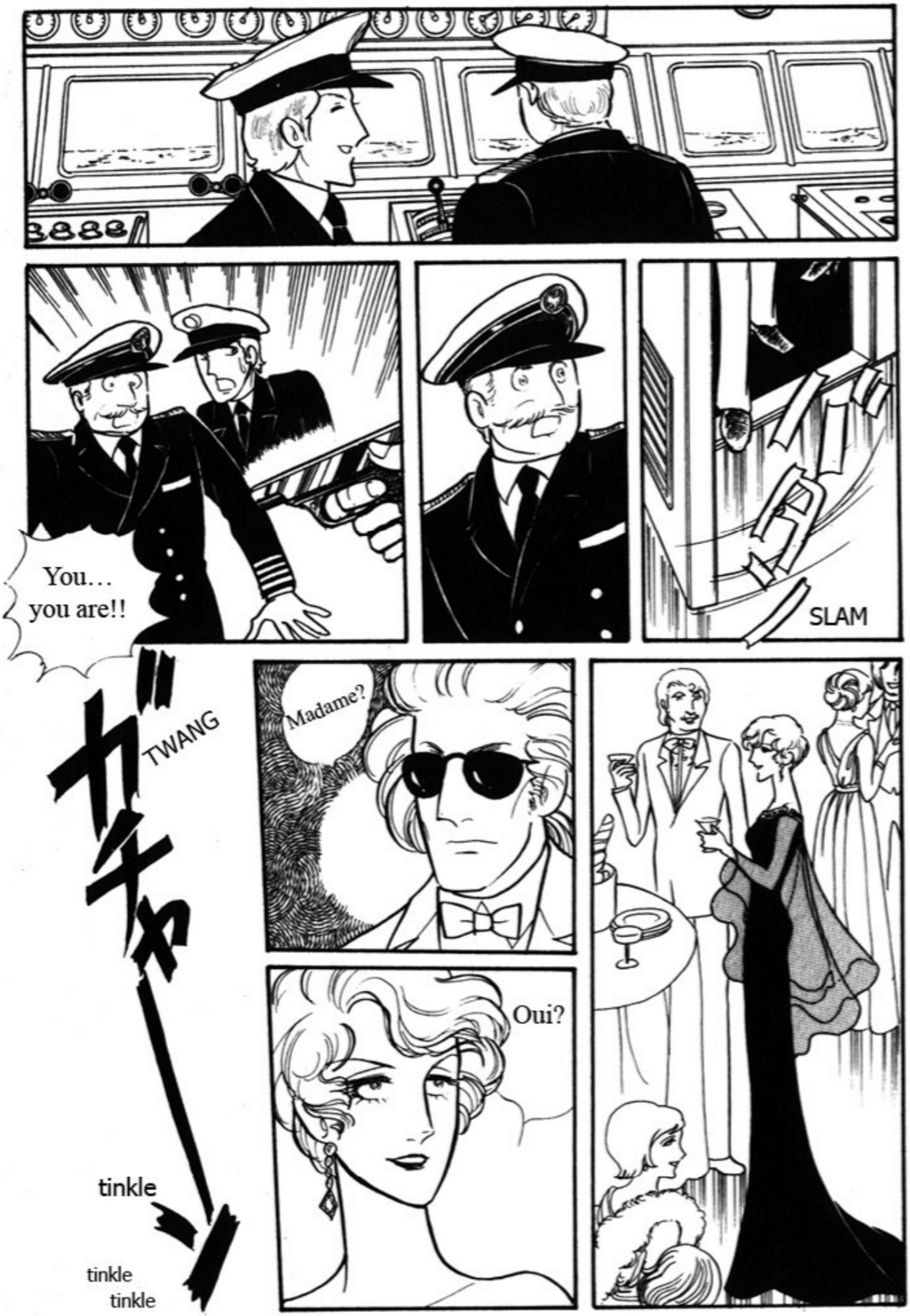

Do you think he's stealing something there?
Yeah, I'm pretty sure.
He really is strong on that, isn't he?
That's them…
I see.
Quite a catch, isn't it?
Oh, no, no. It's not enough for supper.
Excuse me, but have you seen this man around here?
What man?
It's an acquaintance of mine.
I'm having a hard time finding him since all I know is that he's in Portugal.

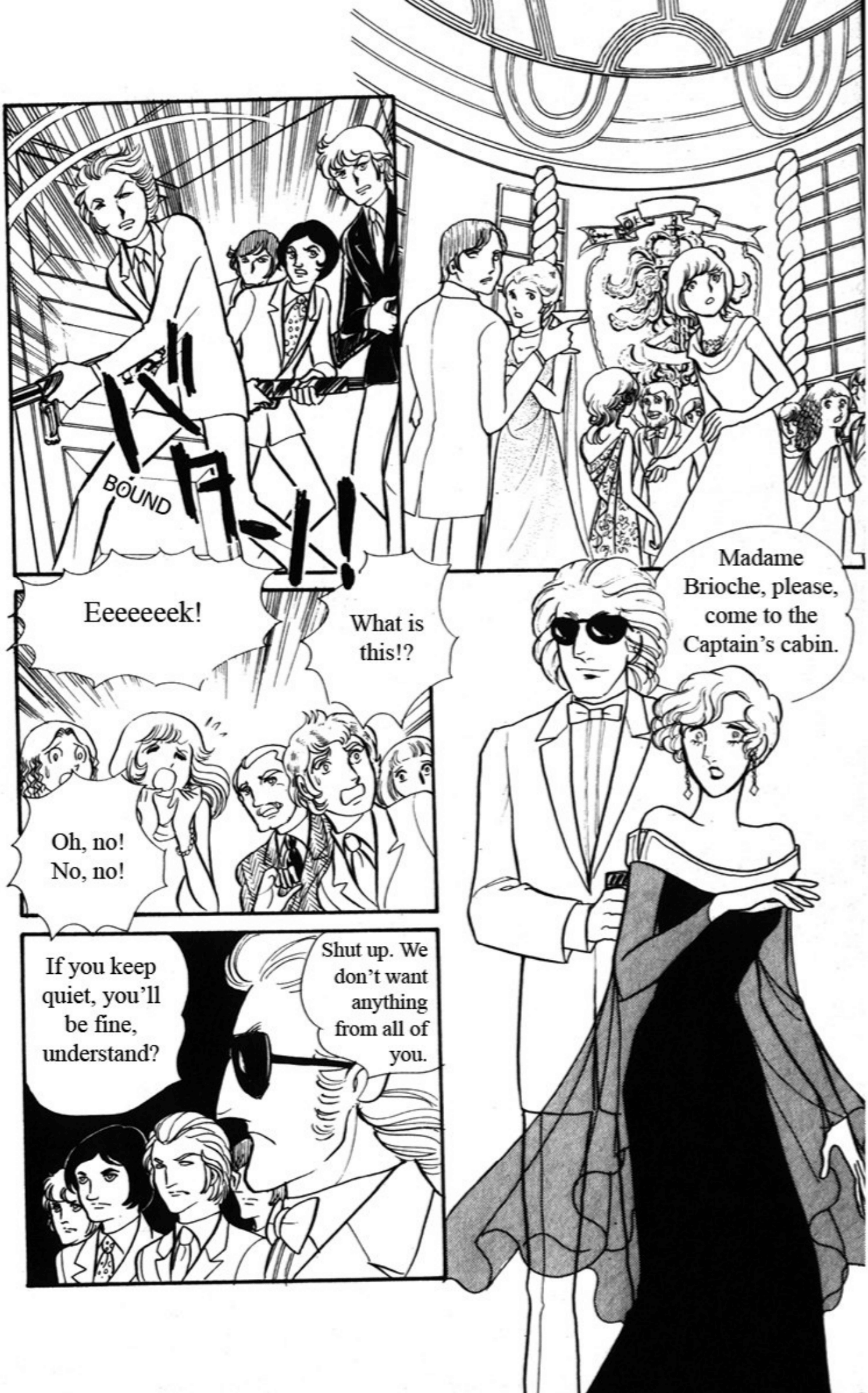

I remember it! That was him!
I saw him in Monaco. In a casino! He was really betting wild.
Monaco …is it?
I know that man!
I… I know!
H… hey!
He can't be!!
Ye…yeah! So, he's not in Lisbon!
Well, then, I must've been looking in the wrong place completely.
Thank you very much for your information.
Follow them.
Yes, sir.
That… That's the NATO guy!
Let's tell everybody right away!
No! Wait for five more minutes. If we leave now, they'll be suspicious.
Let's be casual and do a little humming or something…
Okay, five minutes now.

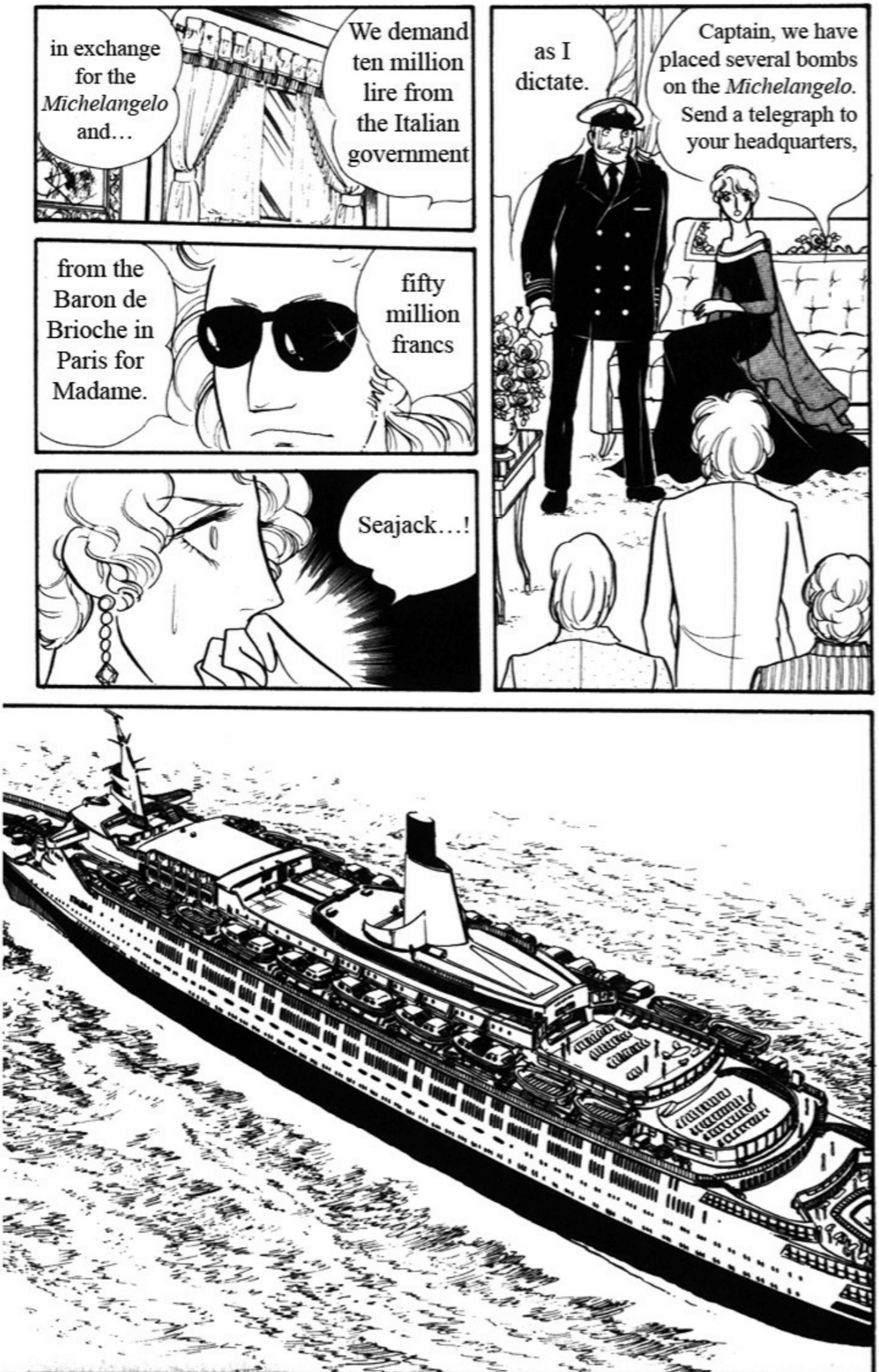

Who the hell would believe it when an obvious miser says it was in a casino in Monaco?
Fat frigging chance. And their meticulousness in waiting exactly five minutes before going away is just pathetic.
The Earl... doesn't seem to have competent subordinates, either.
I'd love to sympathize with him about that, but that's for after I get the Achilles back.
zoooooooommm
That church in Toledo may be in an uproar by now,
If they realize this painting's been stolen...

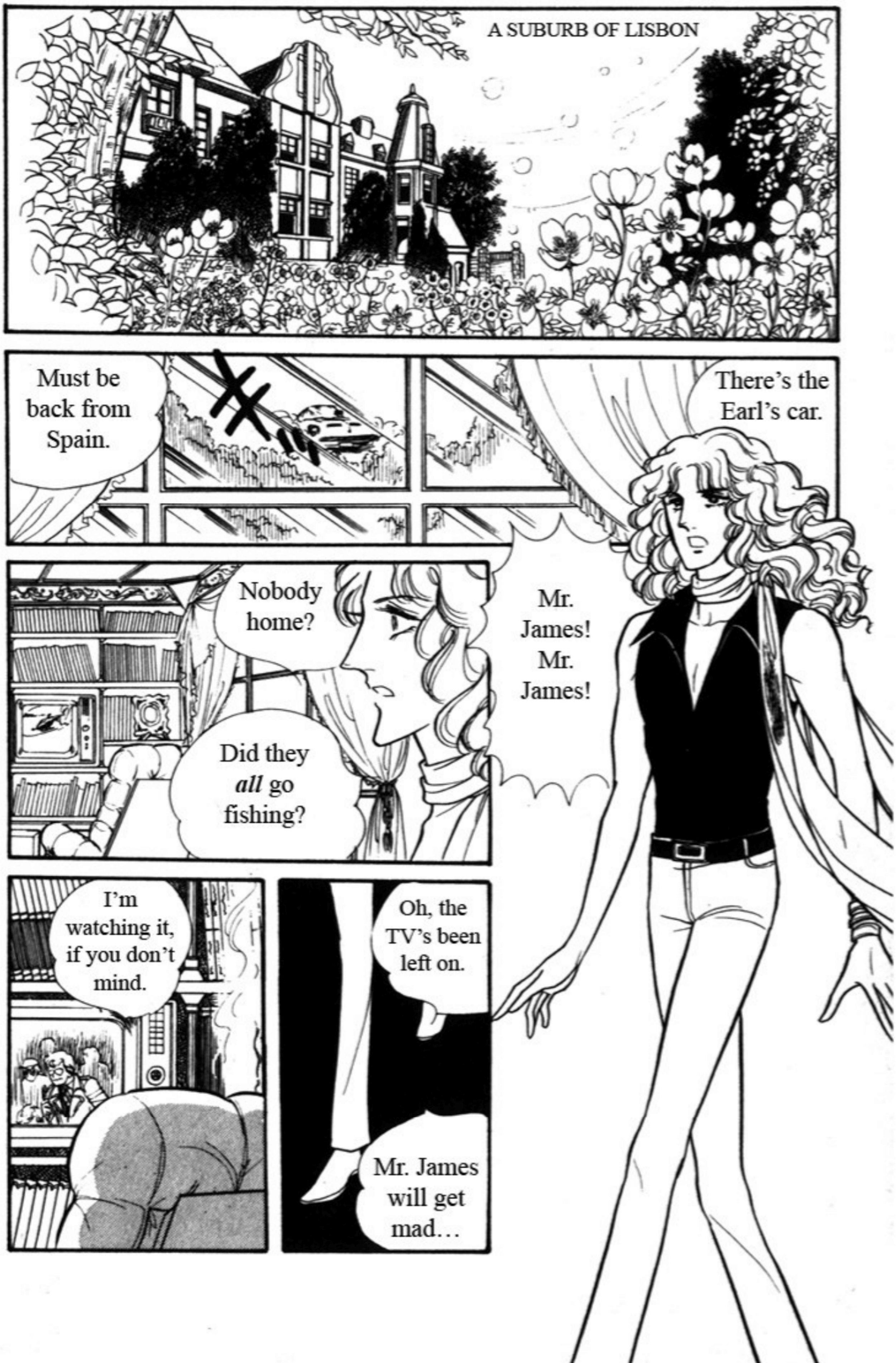

Looks like it's anonymous, but... it's a very good painting in any case. I really like it.
My philosophy is to get whatever I like.
Achilles, where on the Atlantic are you now? Come to me quickly. The beauty of you is…mine.

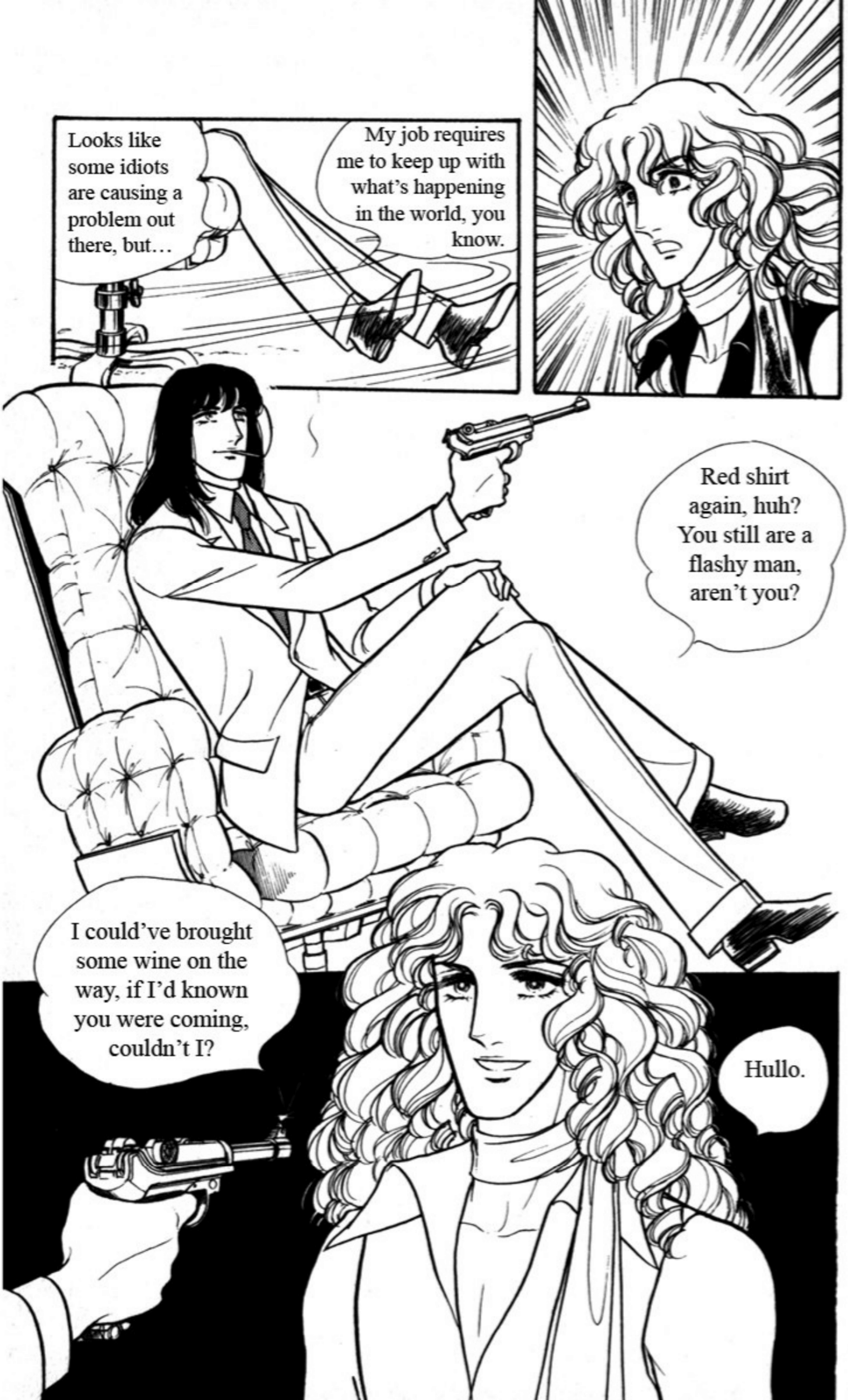
*Of course he does!
It's Tyrian Persimmon as a young boy.

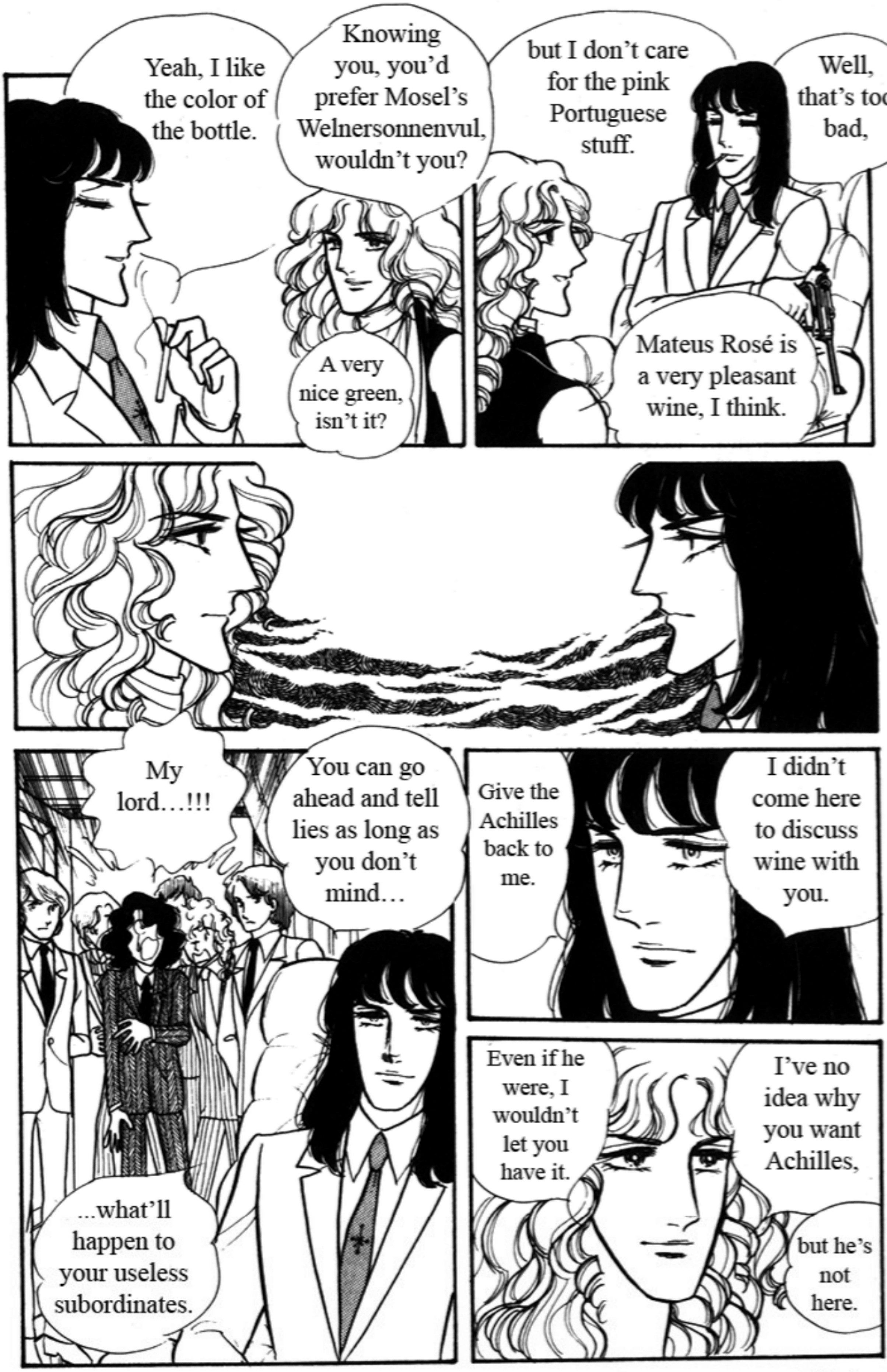

SLAM
You… you are!!
Madame?
Oui?
ガチャーン
TWANG
tinkle
tinkle
tinkle

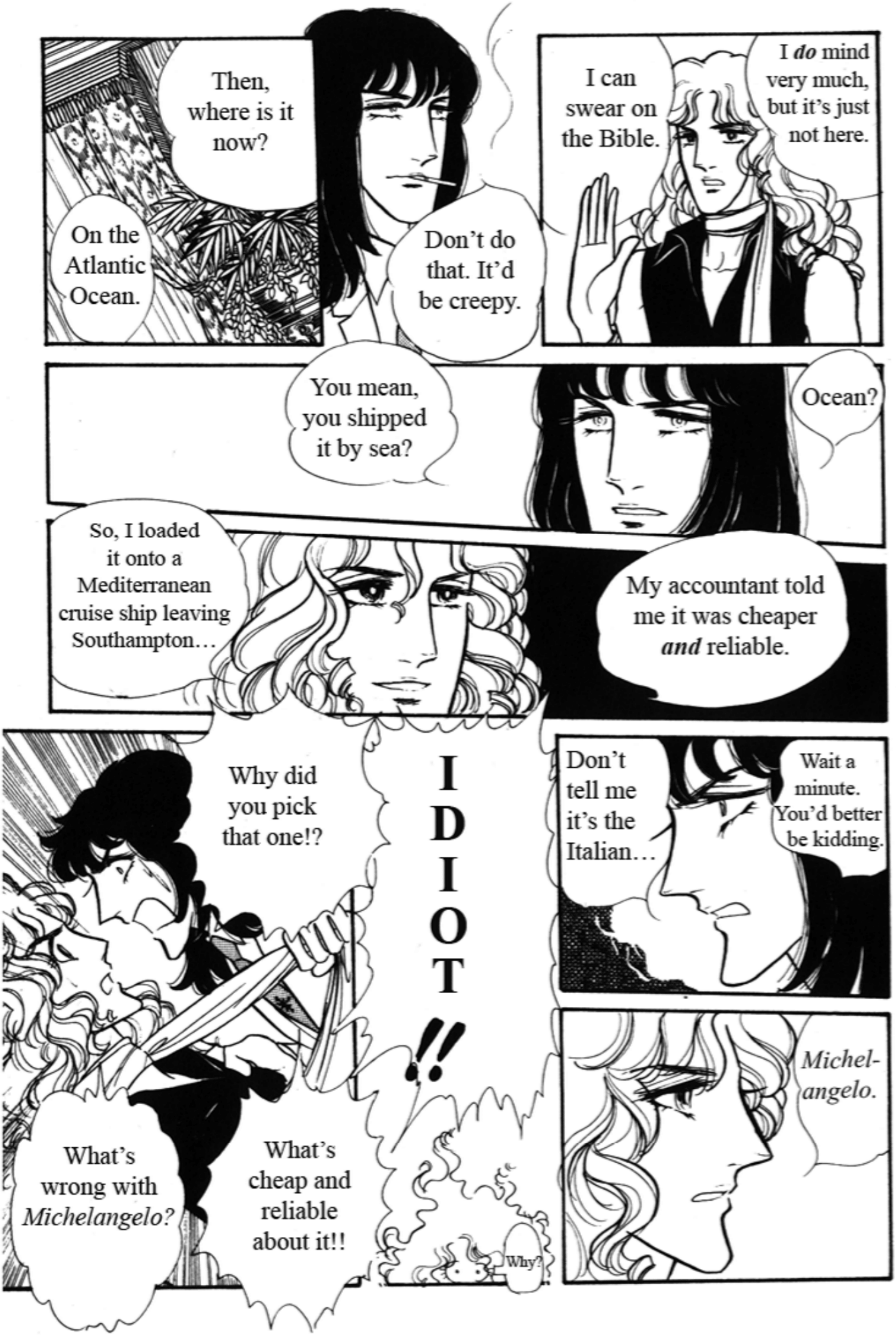

バターン!
BOUND
Eeeeeeek!
What is this!?
Oh, no! No, no!
Shut up. We don't want anything from all of you.
If you keep quiet, you'll be fine, understand?
Madame Brioche, please, come to the Captain's cabin.

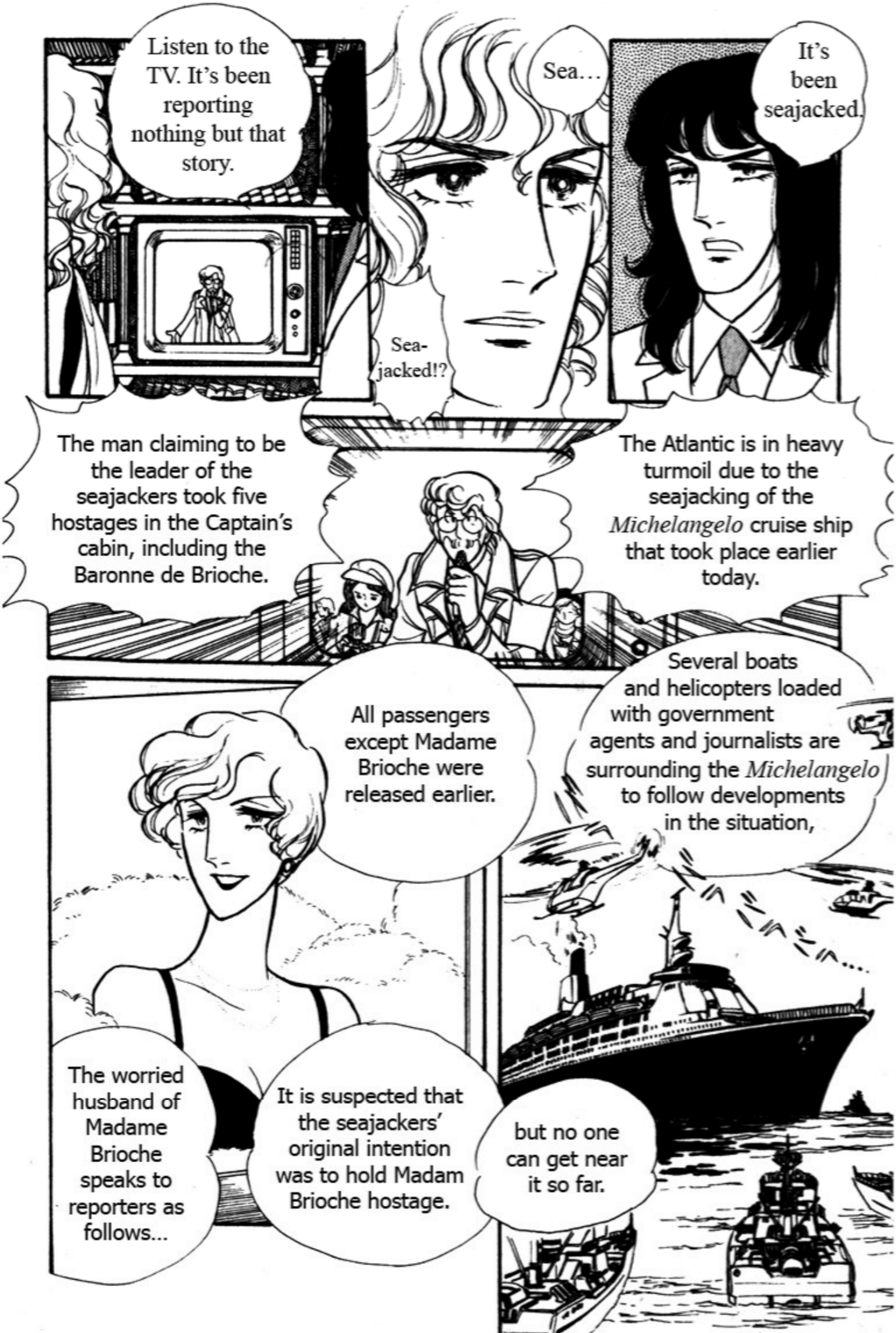

Captain, we have placed several bombs on the *Michelangelo*. Send a telegraph to your headquarters,
as I dictate.
We demand ten million lire from the Italian government
in exchange for the *Michelangelo* and…
fifty million francs
from the Baron de Brioche in Paris for Madame.
Seajack…!

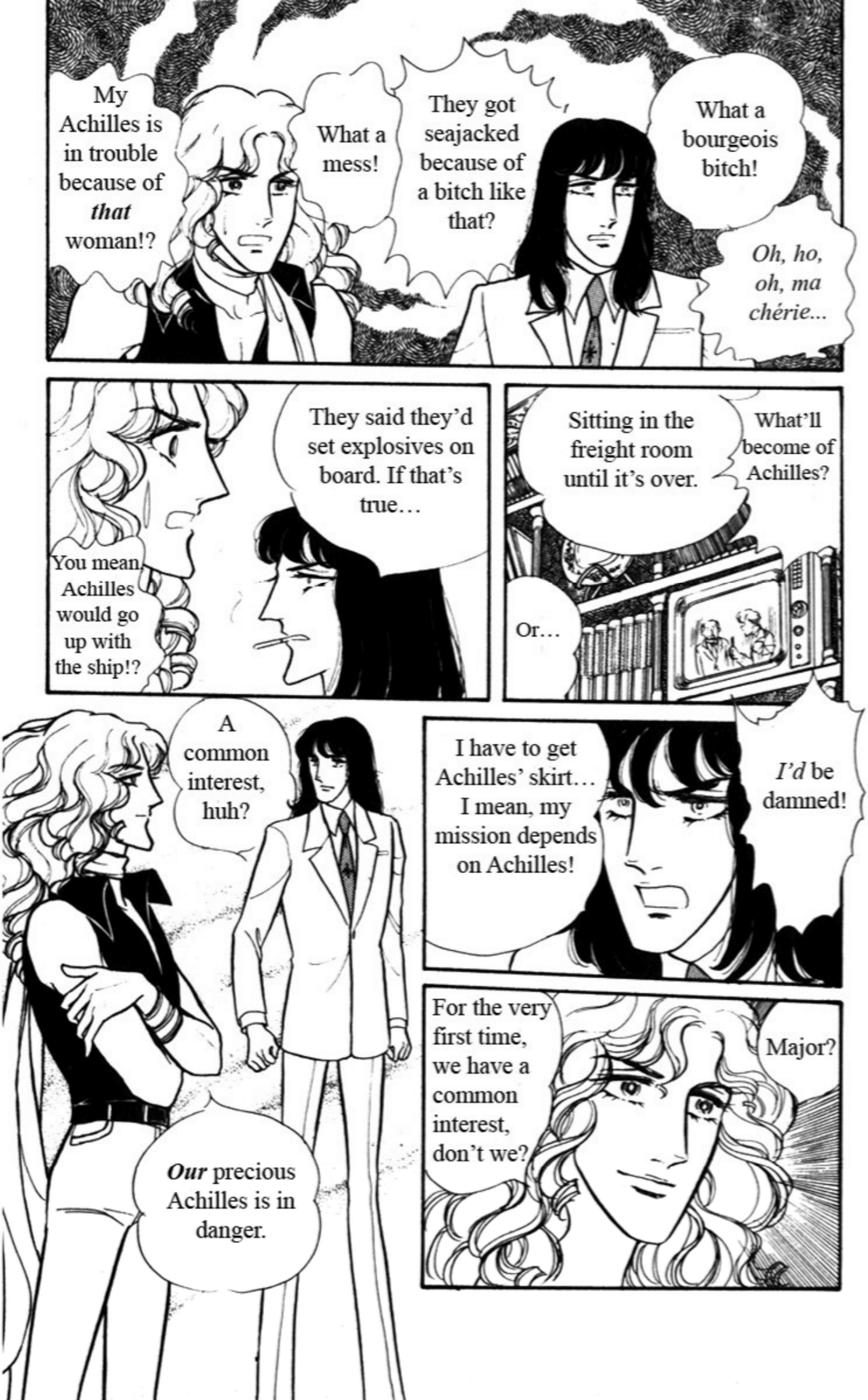

A SUBURB OF LISBON
There's the Earl's car.
Must be back from Spain.
Mr. James! Mr. James!
Nobody home?
Did they *all* go fishing?
Oh, the TV's been left on.
Mr. James will get mad…
I'm watching it, if you don't mind.

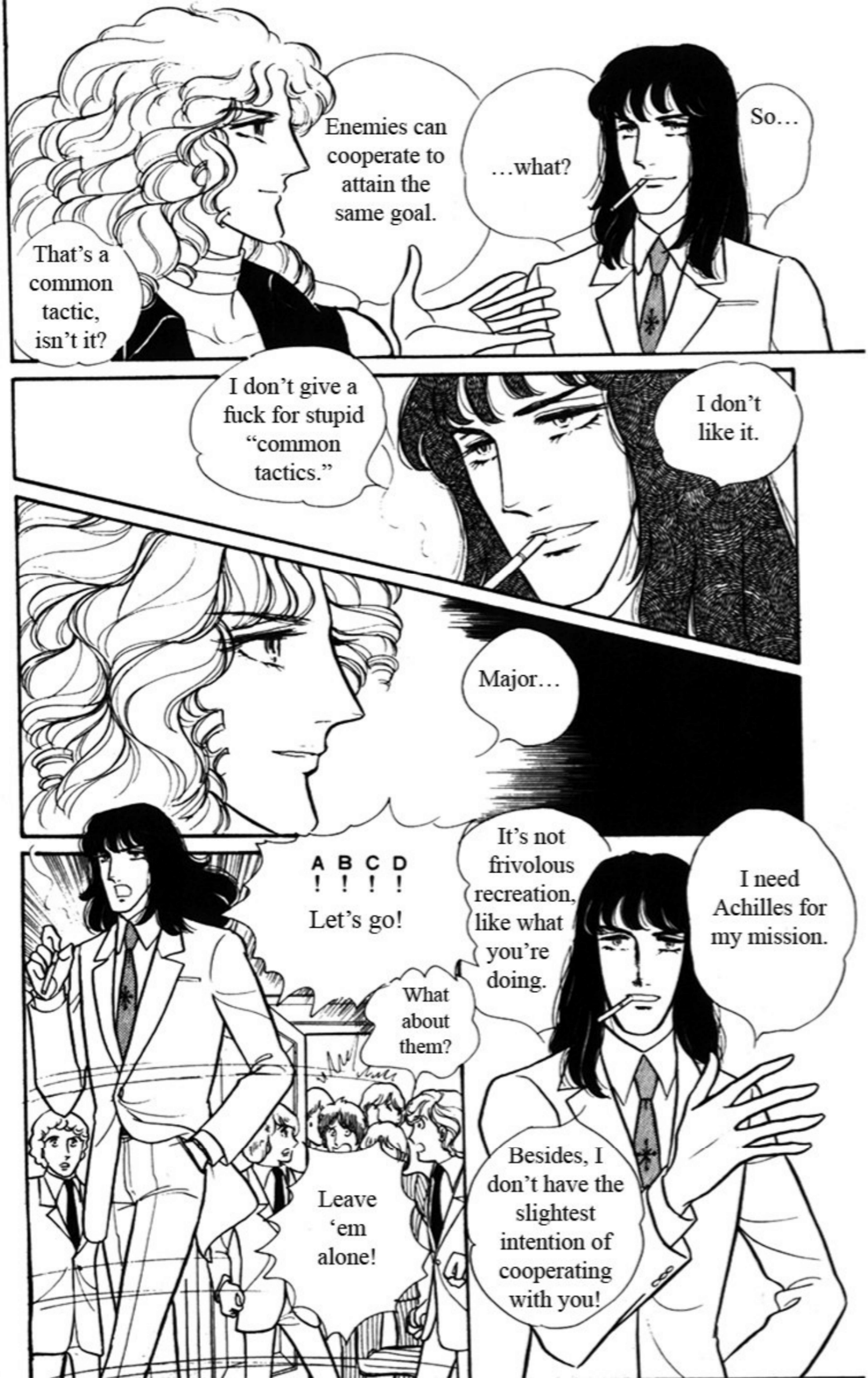

My job requires me to keep up with what's happening in the world, you know.
Looks like some idiots are causing a problem out there, but…
Red shirt again, huh? You still are a flashy man, aren't you?
Hullo.
I could've brought some wine on the way, if I'd known you were coming, couldn't I?

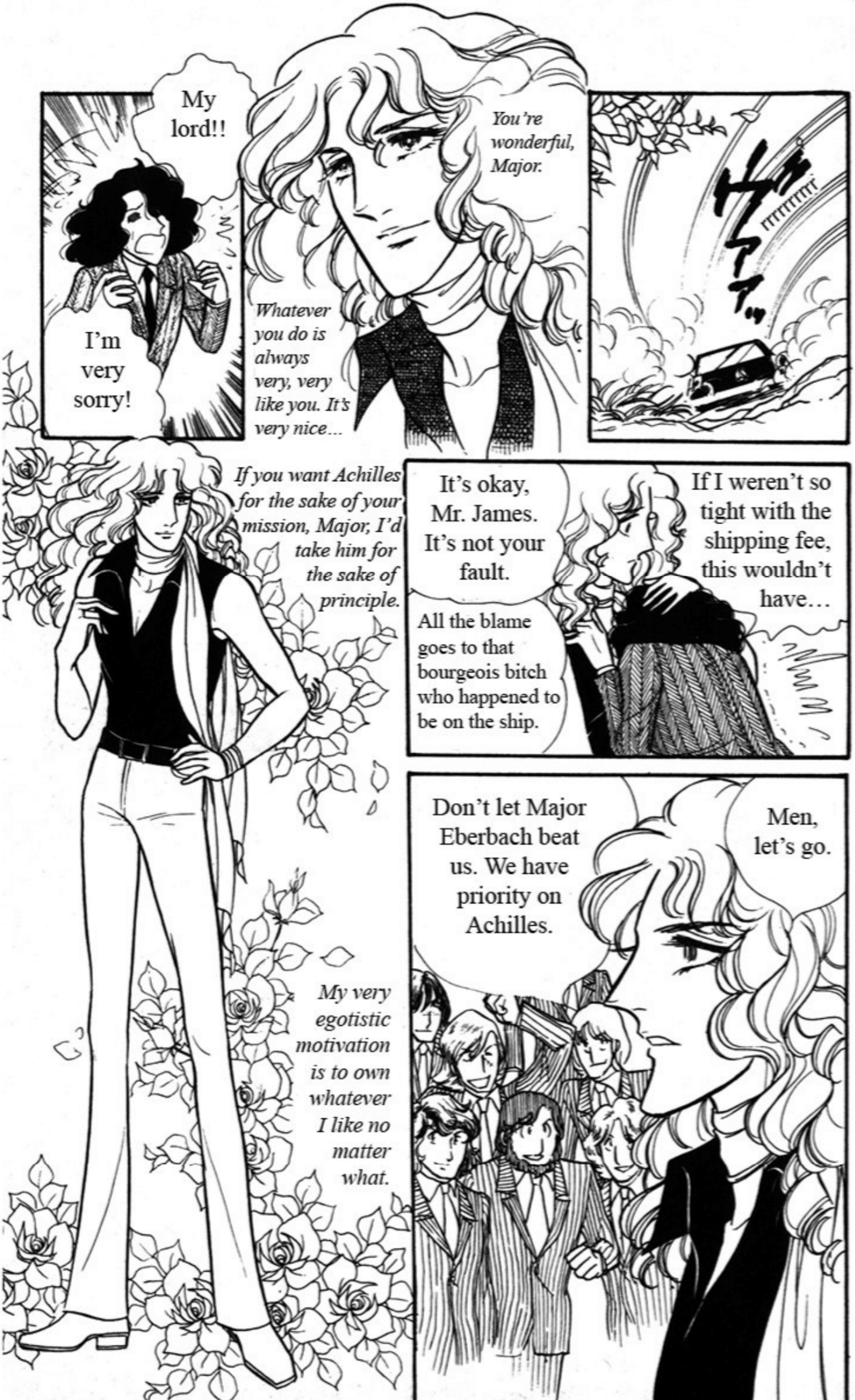

Well, that's too bad,
but I don't care for the pink Portuguese stuff.
Mateus Rosé is a very pleasant wine, I think.
Knowing you, you'd prefer Mosel's Welnersonnenvul, wouldn't you?
Yeah, I like the color of the bottle.
A very nice green, isn't it?
I didn't come here to discuss wine with you.
Give the Achilles back to me.
I've no idea why you want Achilles,
but he's not here.
Even if he were, I wouldn't let you have it.
You can go ahead and tell lies as long as you don't mind…
My lord…!!!
...what'll happen to your useless subordinates.

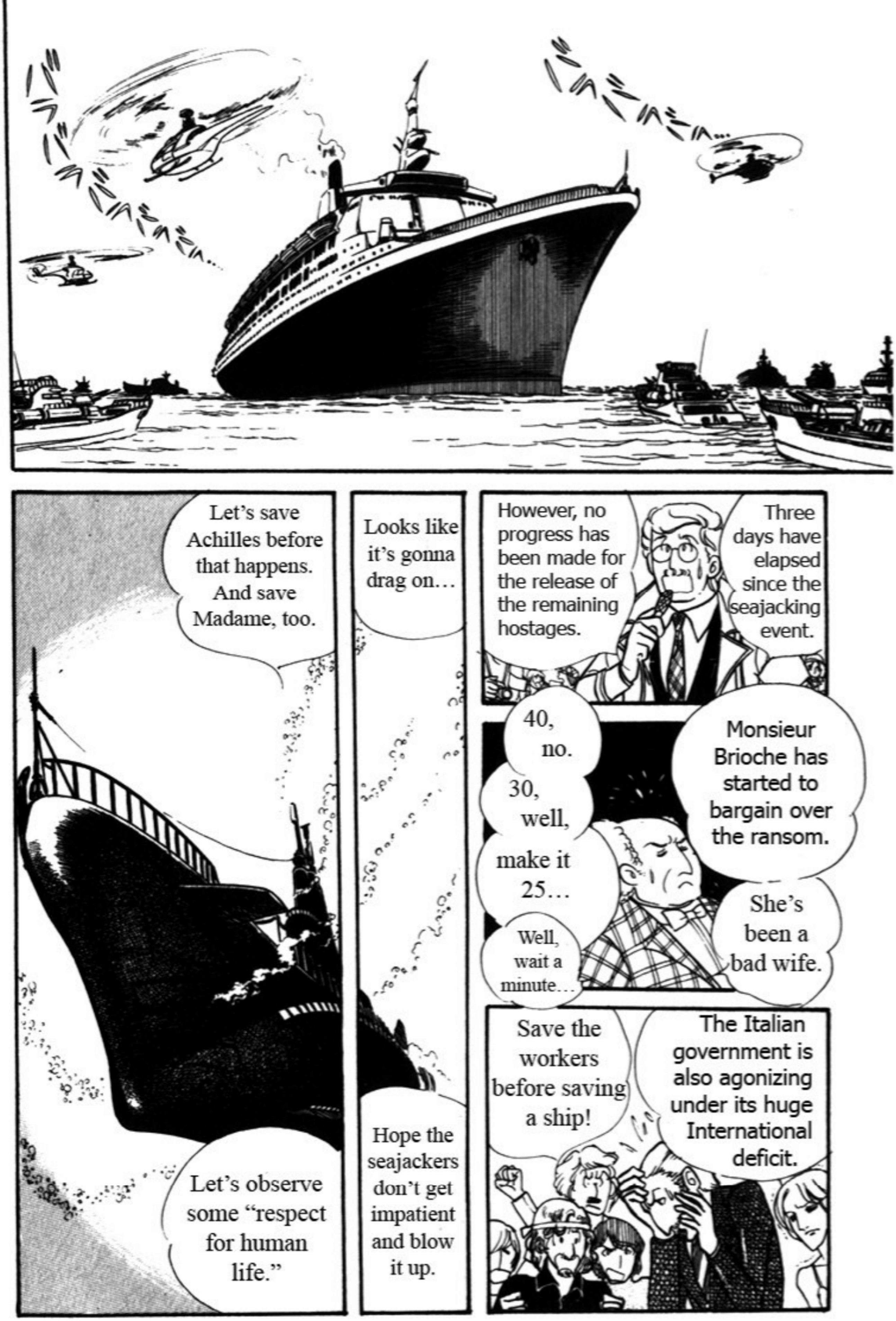

I *do* mind very much, but it's just not here.
I can swear on the Bible.
Don't do that. It'd be creepy.
Then, where is it now?
On the Atlantic Ocean.
Ocean?
You mean, you shipped it by sea?
My accountant told me it was cheaper *and* reliable.
So, I loaded it onto a Mediterranean cruise ship leaving Southampton…
Wait a minute. You'd better be kidding.
Don't tell me it's the Italian…
Michel-angelo.
IDIOT!!
Why did you pick that one!?
What's cheap and reliable about it!!
What's wrong with *Michelangelo?*
Why?

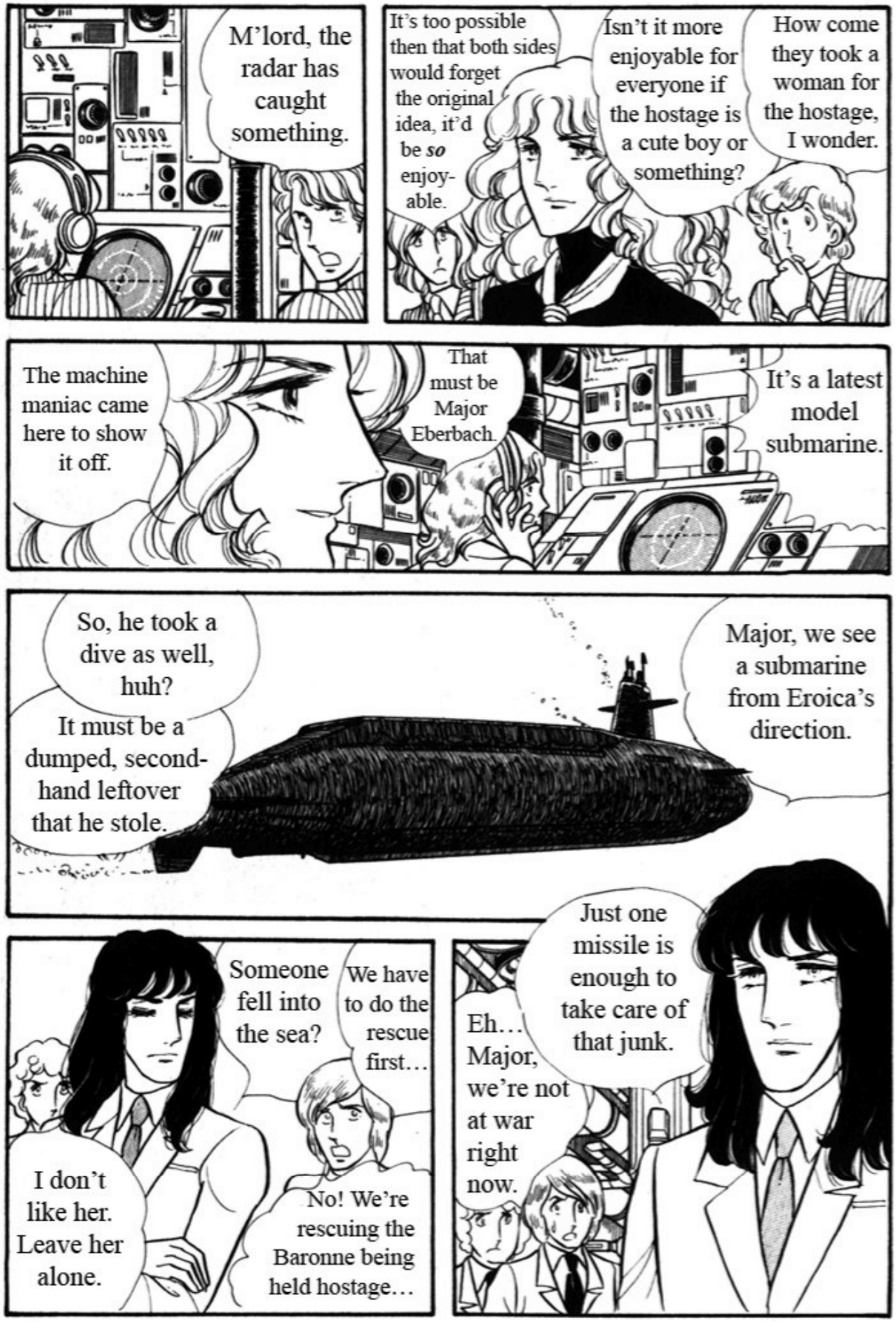

It's been seajacked.
Sea…
Sea-jacked!?
Listen to the TV. It's been reporting nothing but that story.
The Atlantic is in heavy turmoil due to the seajacking of the *Michelangelo* cruise ship that took place earlier today.
The man claiming to be the leader of the seajackers took five hostages in the Captain's cabin, including the Baronne de Brioche.
Several boats and helicopters loaded with government agents and journalists are surrounding the *Michelangelo* to follow developments in the situation,
but no one can get near it so far.
All passengers except Madame Brioche were released earlier.
It is suspected that the seajackers' original intention was to hold Madam Brioche hostage.
The worried husband of Madame Brioche speaks to reporters as follows...

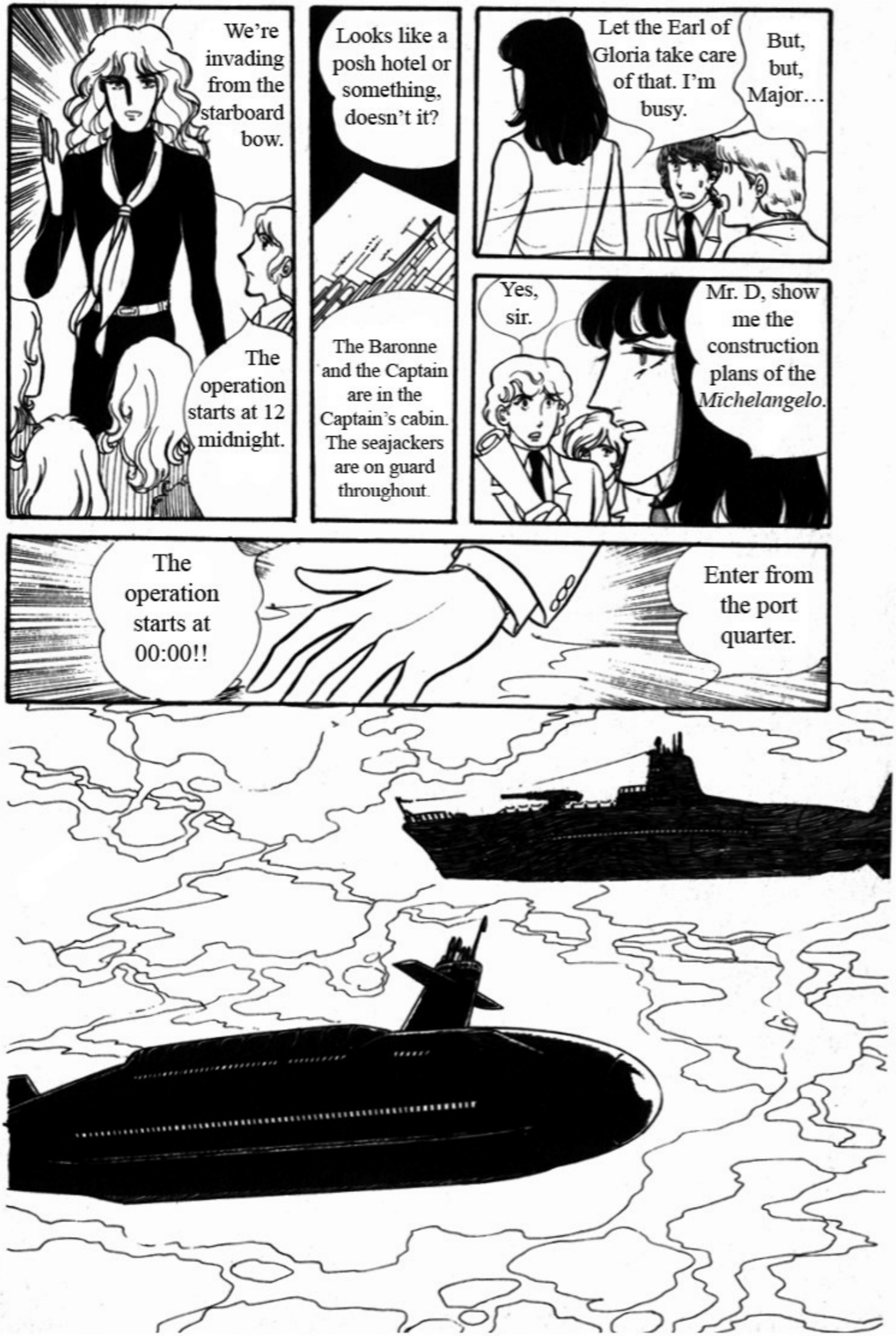

Oh, ho, oh, ma chérie...
What a bourgeois bitch!
They got seajacked because of a bitch like that?
What a mess!
My Achilles is in trouble because of ***that*** woman!?
What'll become of Achilles?
Sitting in the freight room until it's over.
Or…
They said they'd set explosives on board. If that's true…
You mean, Achilles would go up with the ship!?
I'd be damned!
I have to get Achilles' skirt… I mean, my mission depends on Achilles!
Major?
For the very first time, we have a common interest, don't we?
A common interest, huh?
Our precious Achilles is in danger.

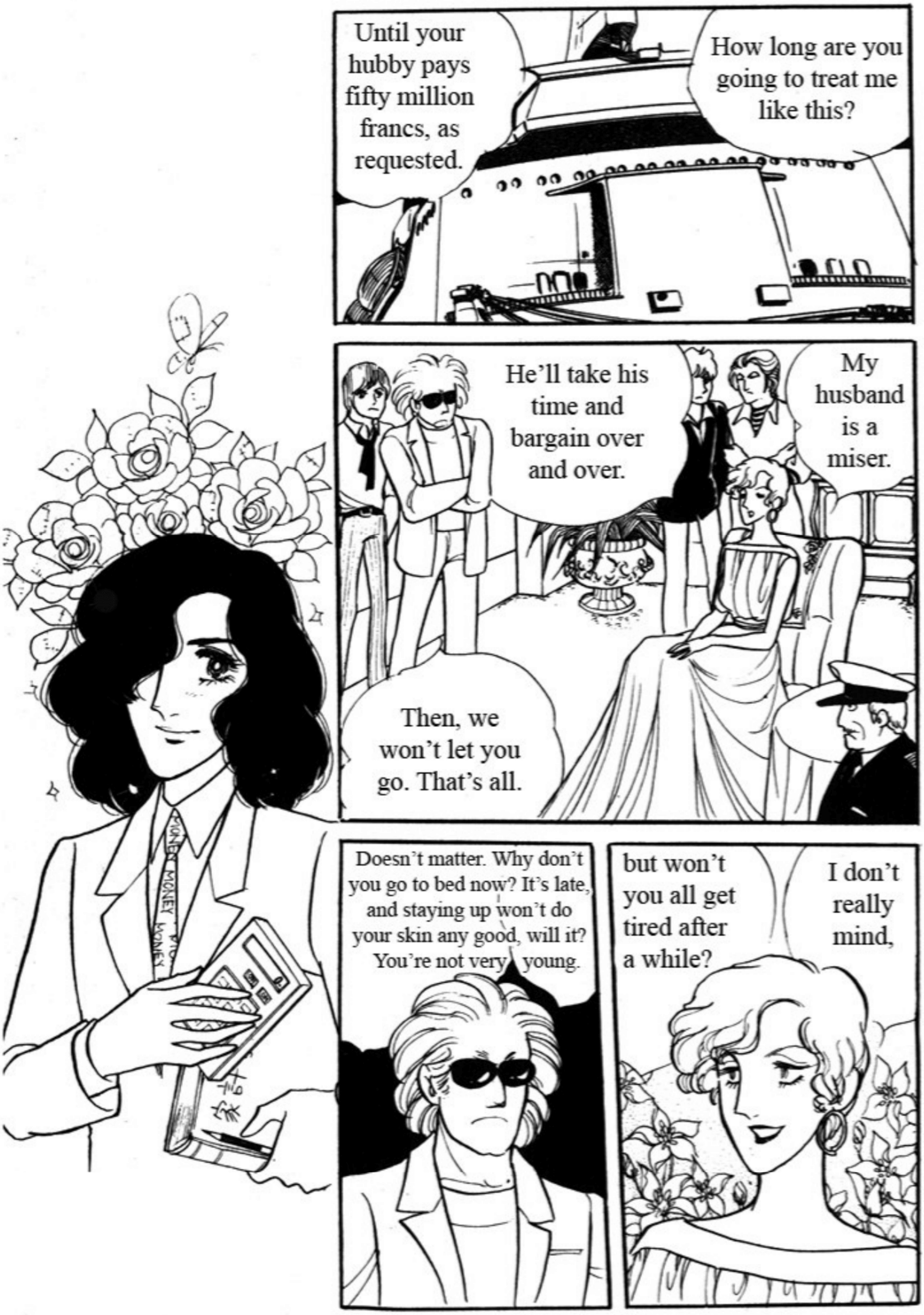

So…
…what?
Enemies can cooperate to attain the same goal.
That's a common tactic, isn't it?
I don't like it.
I don't give a fuck for stupid "common tactics."
Major…
I need Achilles for my mission.
It's not frivolous recreation, like what you're doing.
Besides, I don't have the slightest intention of cooperating with you!
A! B! C! D!
Let's go!
What about them?
Leave 'em alone!

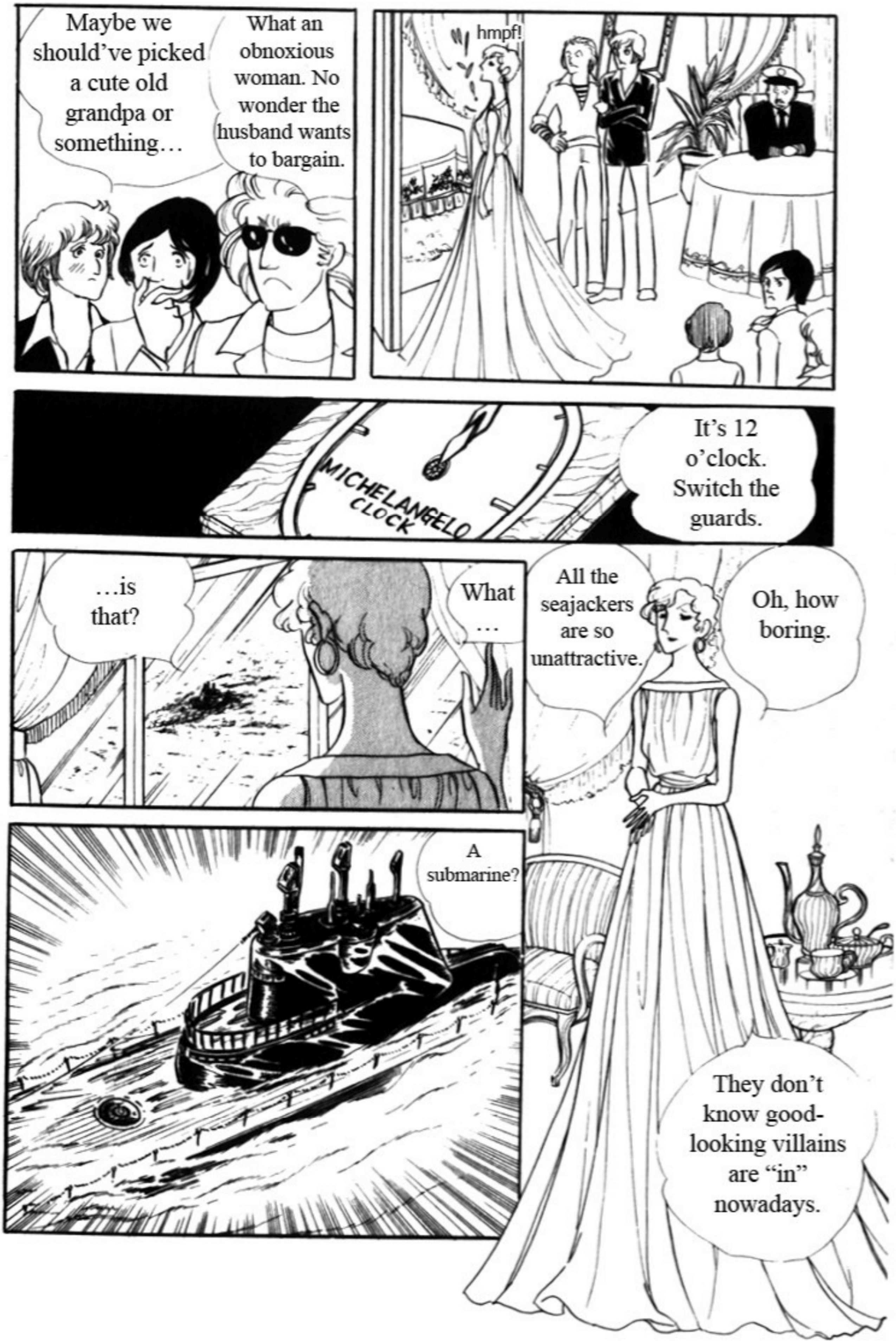

ヴァアアッ
rrrrrrrr
You're wonderful, Major.
Whatever you do is always very, very like you. It's very nice…
My lord!!
I'm very sorry!
If I weren't so tight with the shipping fee, this wouldn't have…
It's okay, Mr. James. It's not your fault.
All the blame goes to that bourgeois bitch who happened to be on the ship.
Men, let's go.
Don't let Major Eberbach beat us. We have priority on Achilles.
If you want Achilles for the sake of your mission, Major, I'd take him for the sake of principle.
My very egotistic motivation is to own whatever I like no matter what.

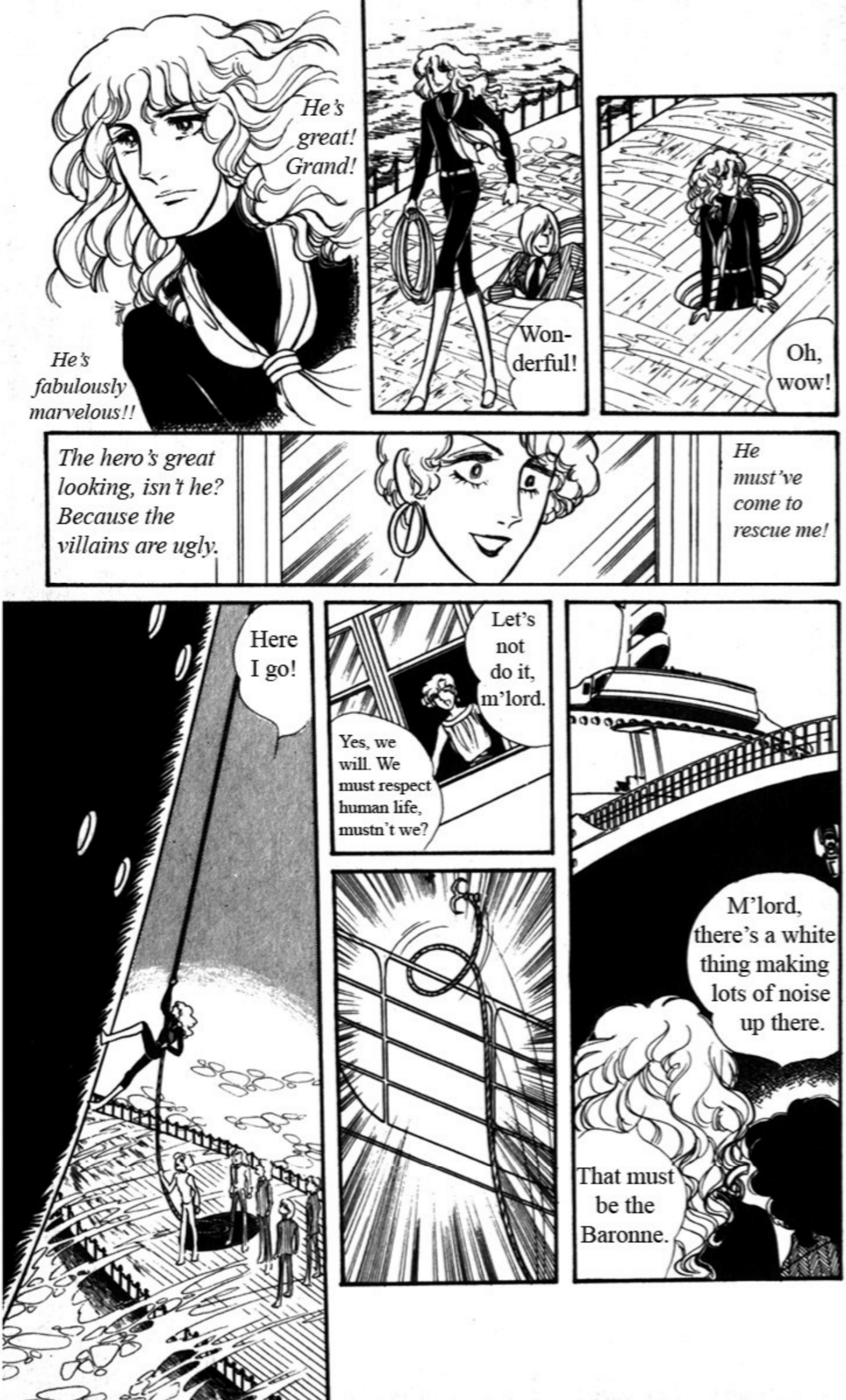

Three days have elapsed since the seajacking event.
However, no progress has been made for the release of the remaining hostages.
Monsieur Brioche has started to bargain over the ransom.
She's been a bad wife.
40, no.
30, well,
make it 25…
Well, wait a minute…
The Italian government is also agonizing under its huge International deficit.
Save the workers before saving a ship!
Looks like it's gonna drag on…
Hope the seajackers don't get impatient and blow it up.
Let's save Achilles before that happens. And save Madame, too.
Let's observe some "respect for human life."

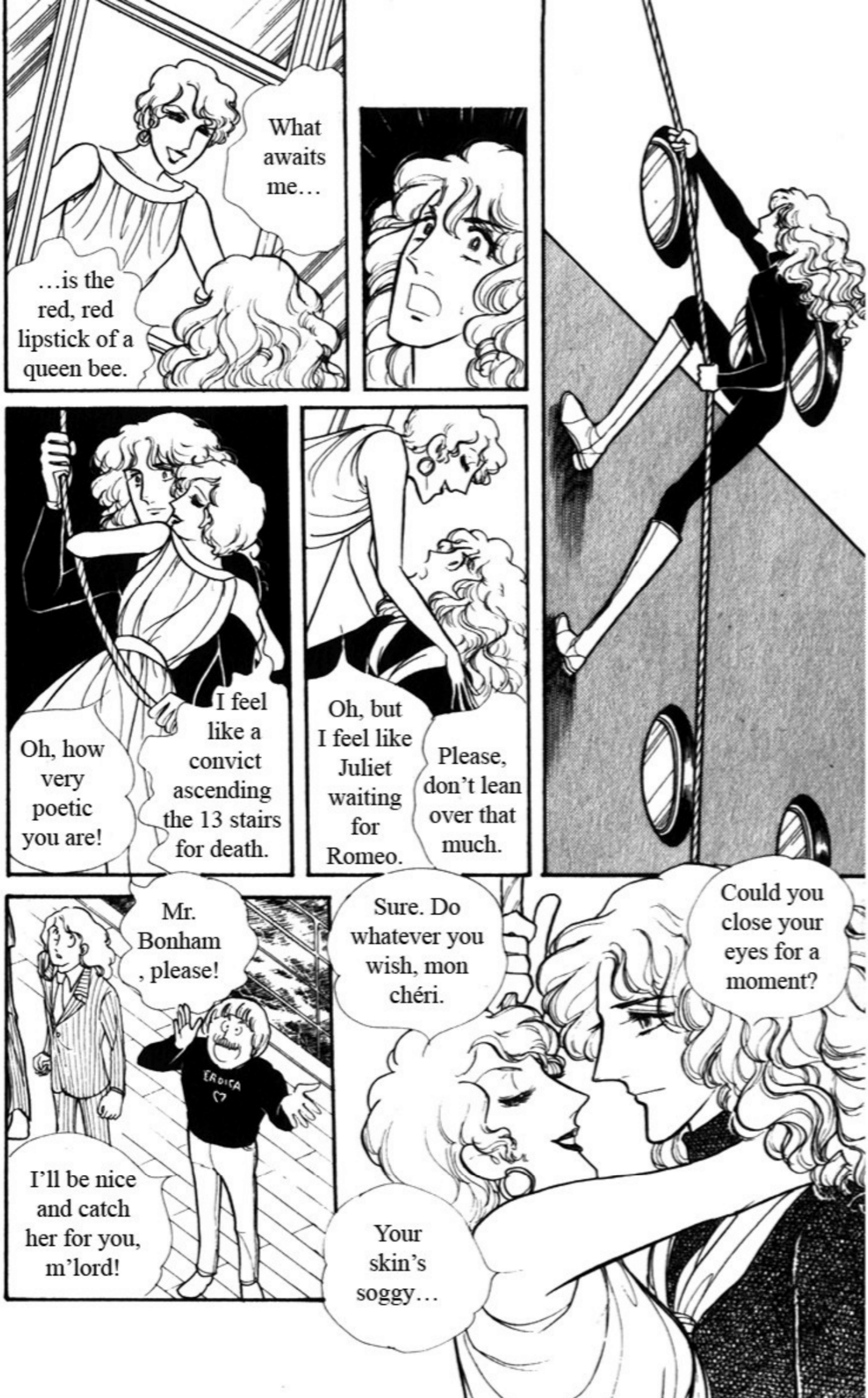

How come they took a woman for the hostage, I wonder.
Isn't it more enjoyable for everyone if the hostage is a cute boy or something?
It's too possible then that both sides would forget the original idea, it'd be *so* enjoyable.
M'lord, the radar has caught something.
It's a latest model submarine.
That must be Major Eberbach.
The machine maniac came here to show it off.
Major, we see a submarine from Eroica's direction.
So, he took a dive as well, huh?
It must be a dumped, second-hand leftover that he stole.
Just one missile is enough to take care of that junk.
Eh… Major, we're not at war right now.
We have to do the rescue first…
Someone fell into the sea?
I don't like her. Leave her alone.
No! We're rescuing the Baronne being held hostage…

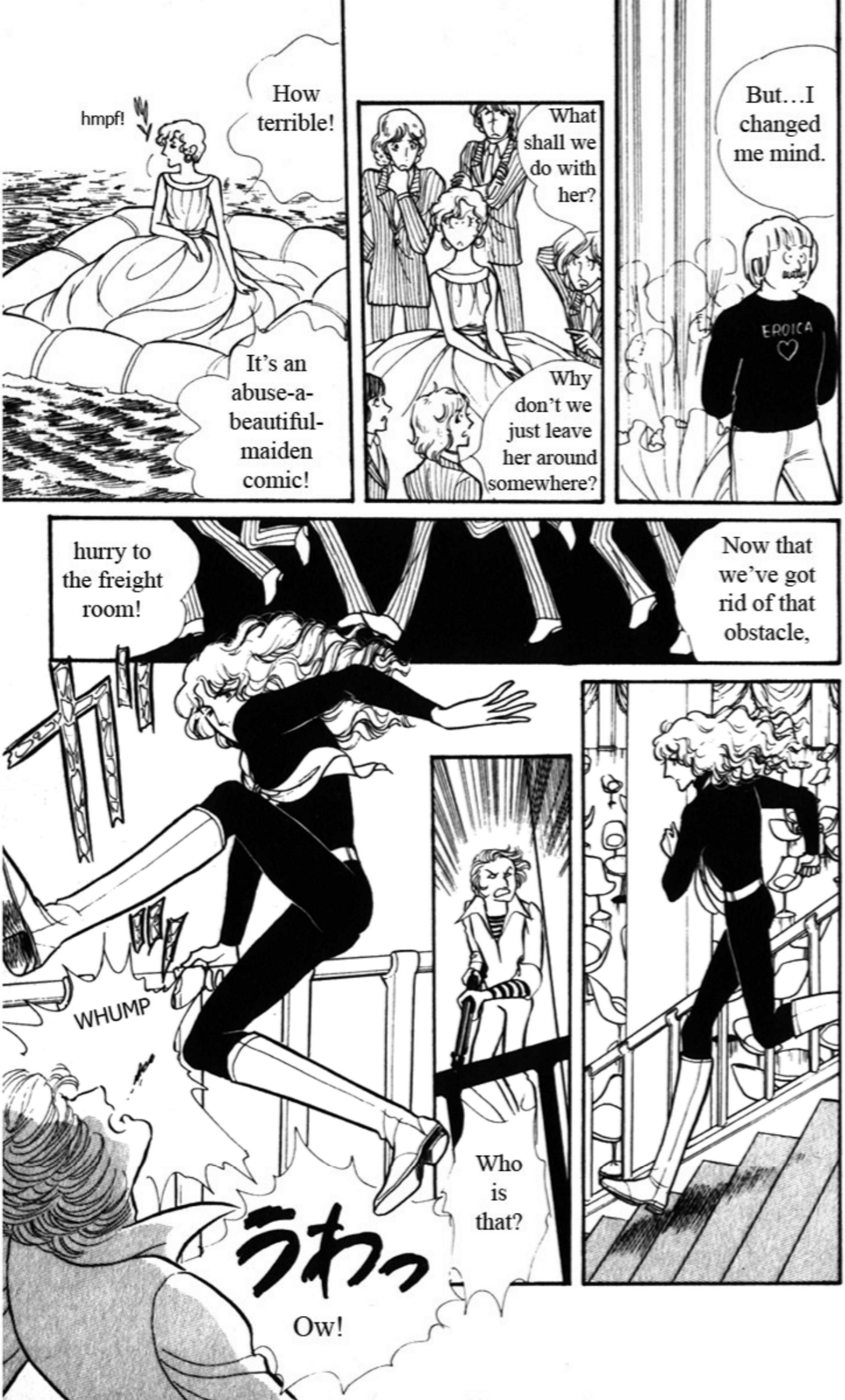

But, but, Major…
Let the Earl of Gloria take care of that. I'm busy.
Mr. D, show me the construction plans of the *Michelangelo*.
Yes, sir.
Looks like a posh hotel or something, doesn't it?
The Baronne and the Captain are in the Captain's cabin. The seajackers are on guard throughout.
We're invading from the starboard bow.
The operation starts at 12 midnight.
Enter from the port quarter.
The operation starts at 00:00!!

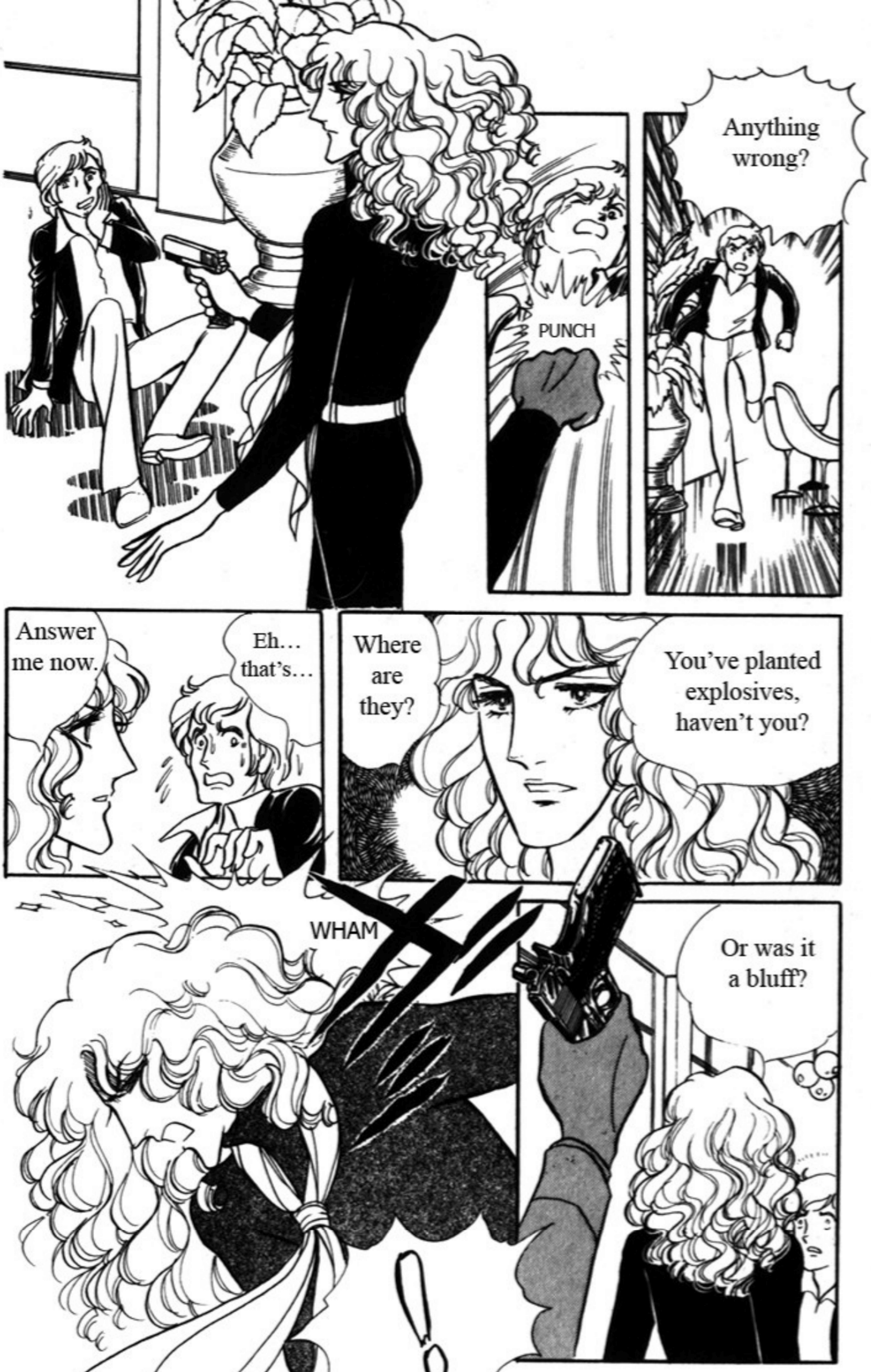

How long are you going to treat me like this?
Until your hubby pays fifty million francs, as requested.
My husband is a miser.
He'll take his time and bargain over and over.
Then, we won't let you go. That's all.
I don't really mind,
but won't you all get tired after a while?
Doesn't matter. Why don't you go to bed now? It's late, and staying up won't do your skin any good, will it? You're not very young.

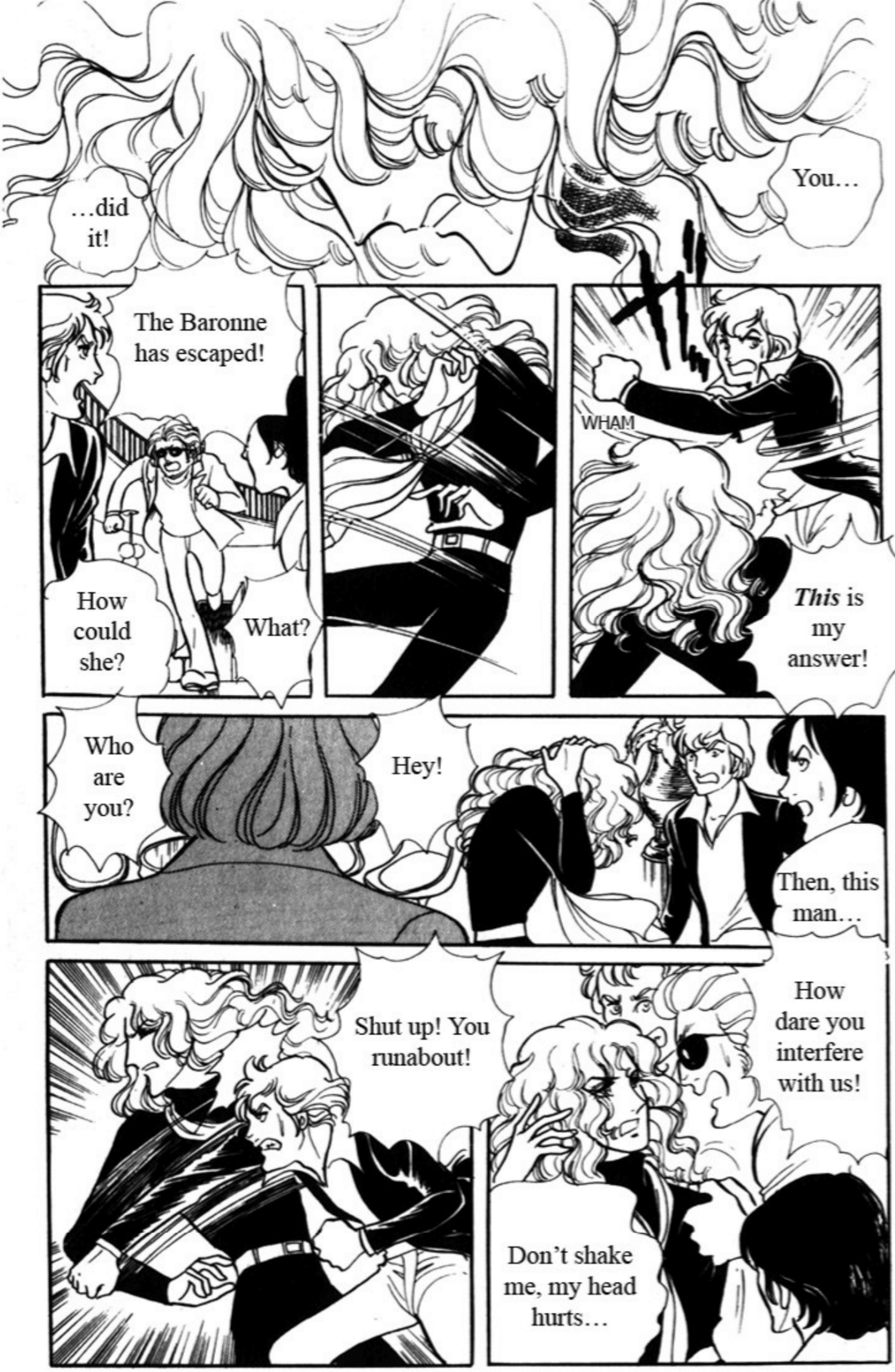

hmpf!
What an obnoxious woman. No wonder the husband wants to bargain.
Maybe we should've picked a cute old grandpa or something…
MICHELANGELO CLOCK
It's 12 o'clock. Switch the guards.
Oh, how boring.
All the seajackers are so unattractive.
They don't know good-looking villains are "in" nowadays.
What …
…is that?
A submarine?

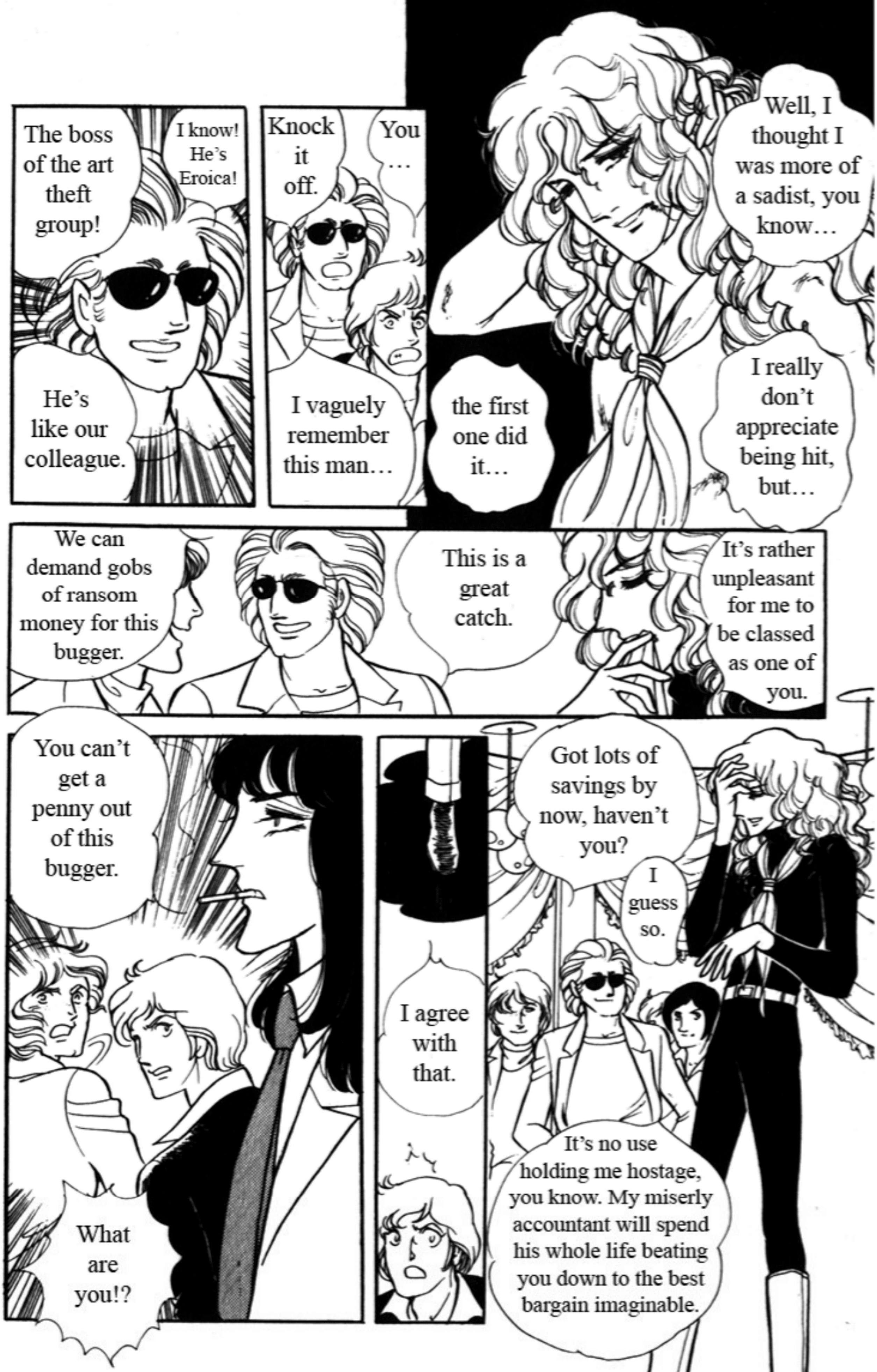

He's great! Grand!
He's fabulously marvelous!!
Won-derful!
Oh, wow!
The hero's great looking, isn't he? Because the villains are ugly.
He must've come to rescue me!
Here I go!
Let's not do it, m'lord.
Yes, we will. We must respect human life, mustn't we?
M'lord, there's a white thing making lots of noise up there.
That must be the Baronne.

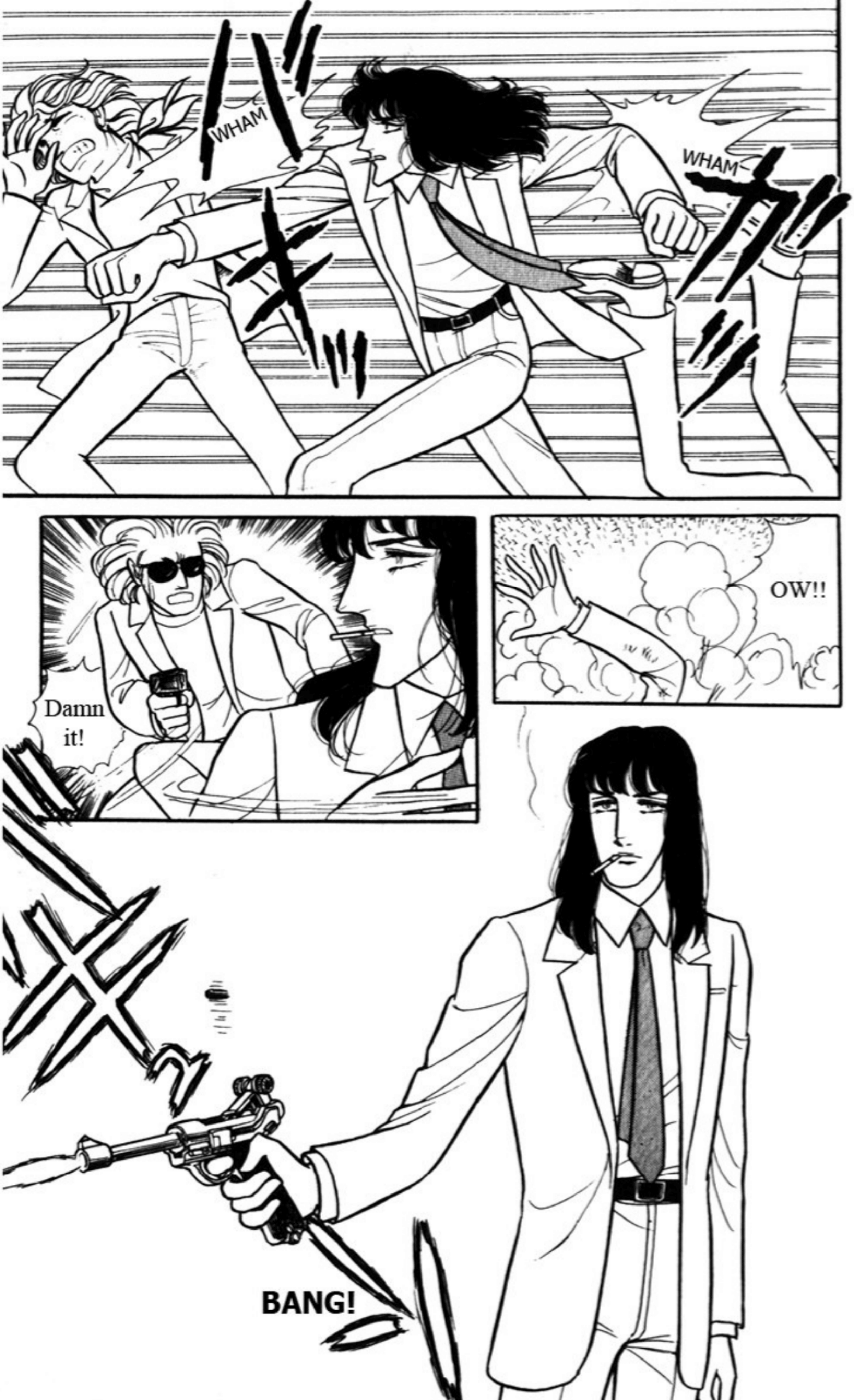

What awaits me…
…is the red, red lipstick of a queen bee.
I feel like a convict ascending the 13 stairs for death.
Oh, how very poetic you are!
Oh, but I feel like Juliet waiting for Romeo.
Please, don't lean over that much.
Mr. Bonham, please!
I'll be nice and catch her for you, m'lord!
ERDICA
Could you close your eyes for a moment?
Sure. Do whatever you wish, mon chéri.
Your skin's soggy…

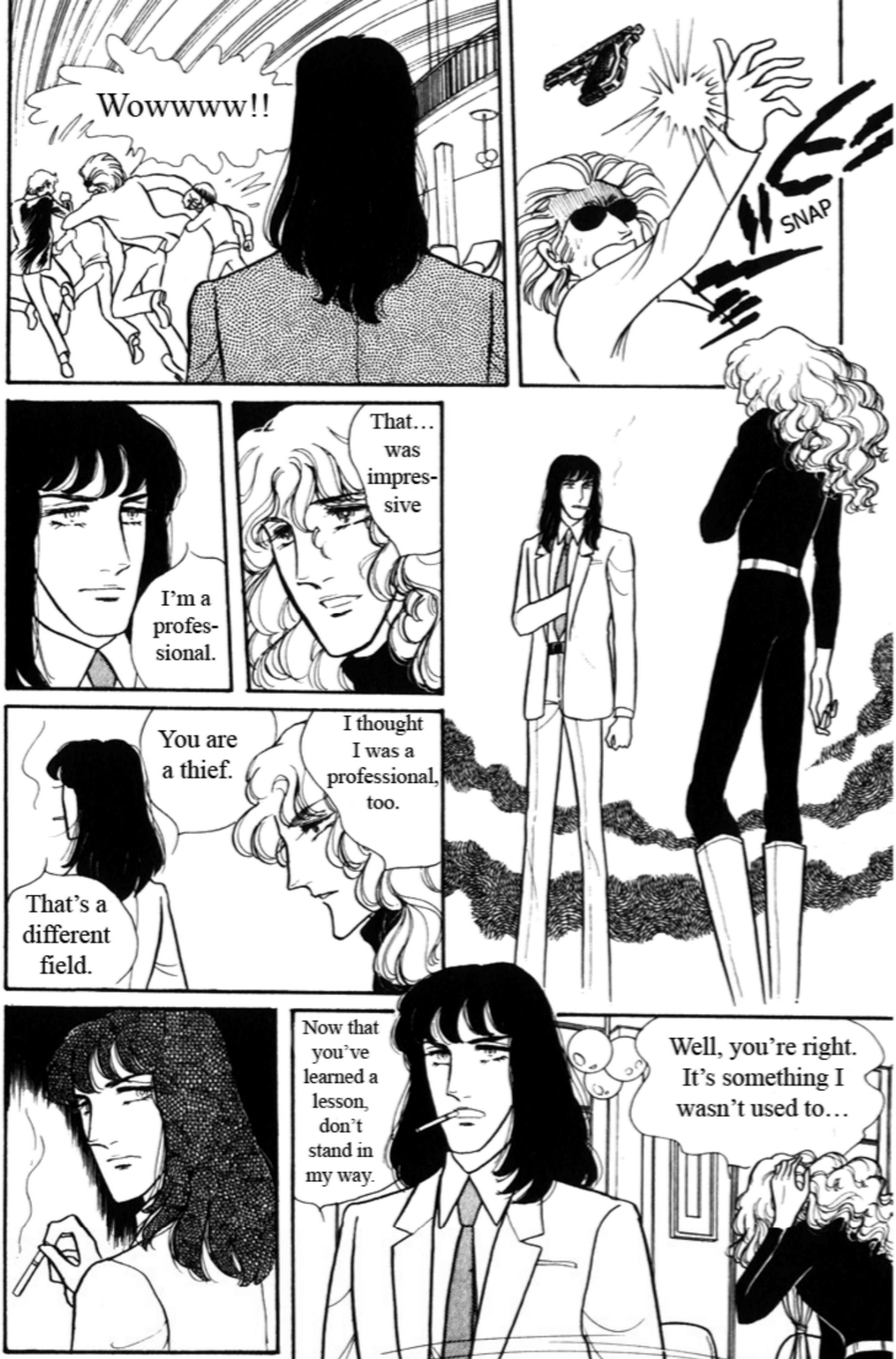

But…I changed me mind.
What shall we do with her?
Why don't we just leave her around somewhere?
How terrible!
hmpf!
It's an abuse-a-beautiful-maiden comic!
Now that we've got rid of that obstacle,
hurry to the freight room!
Who is that?
WHUMP
うわっ
Ow!

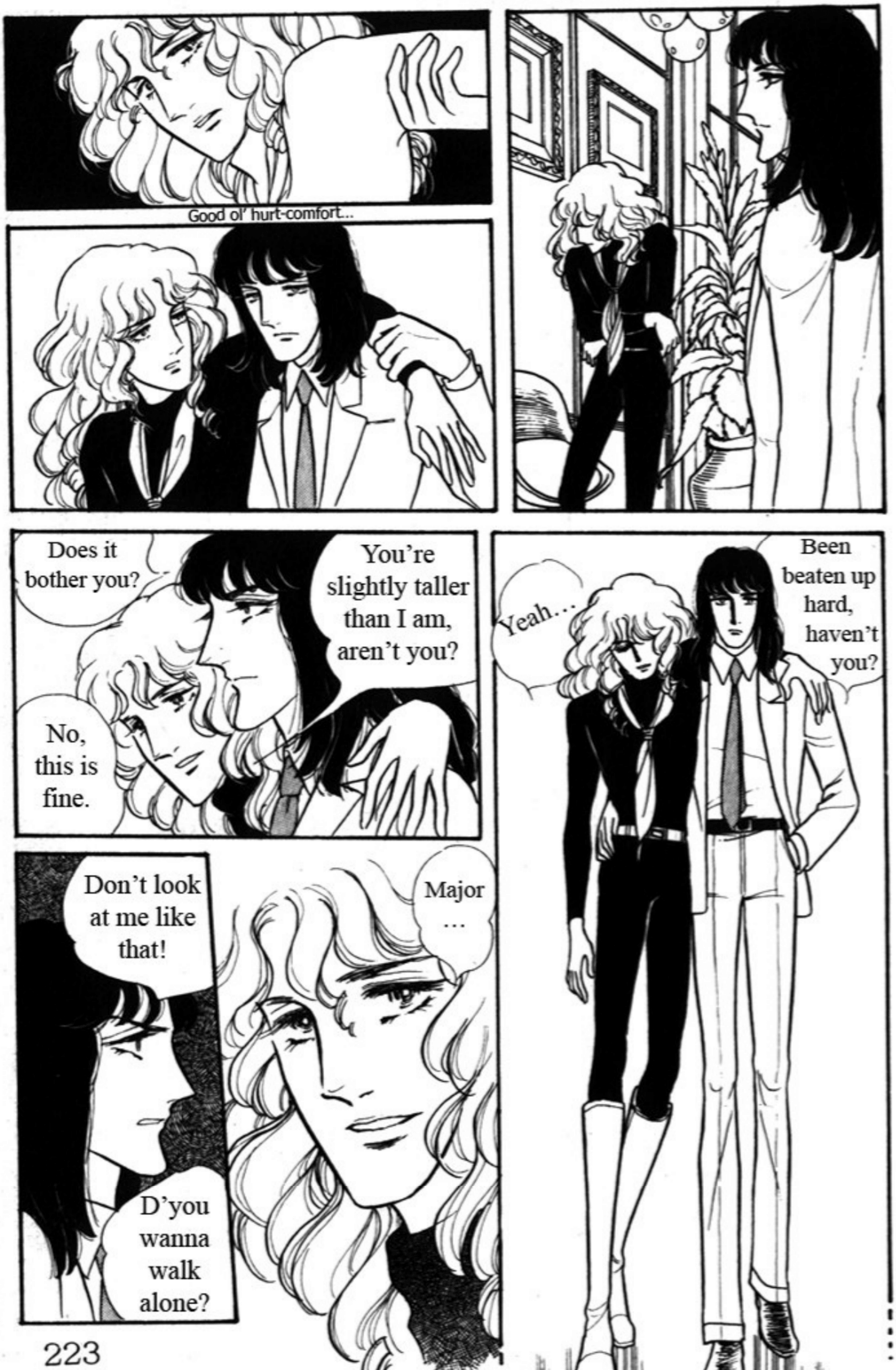

Anything wrong?
PUNCH
You've planted explosives, haven't you?
Where are they?
Eh… that's…
Answer me now.
Or was it a bluff?
WHAM
!

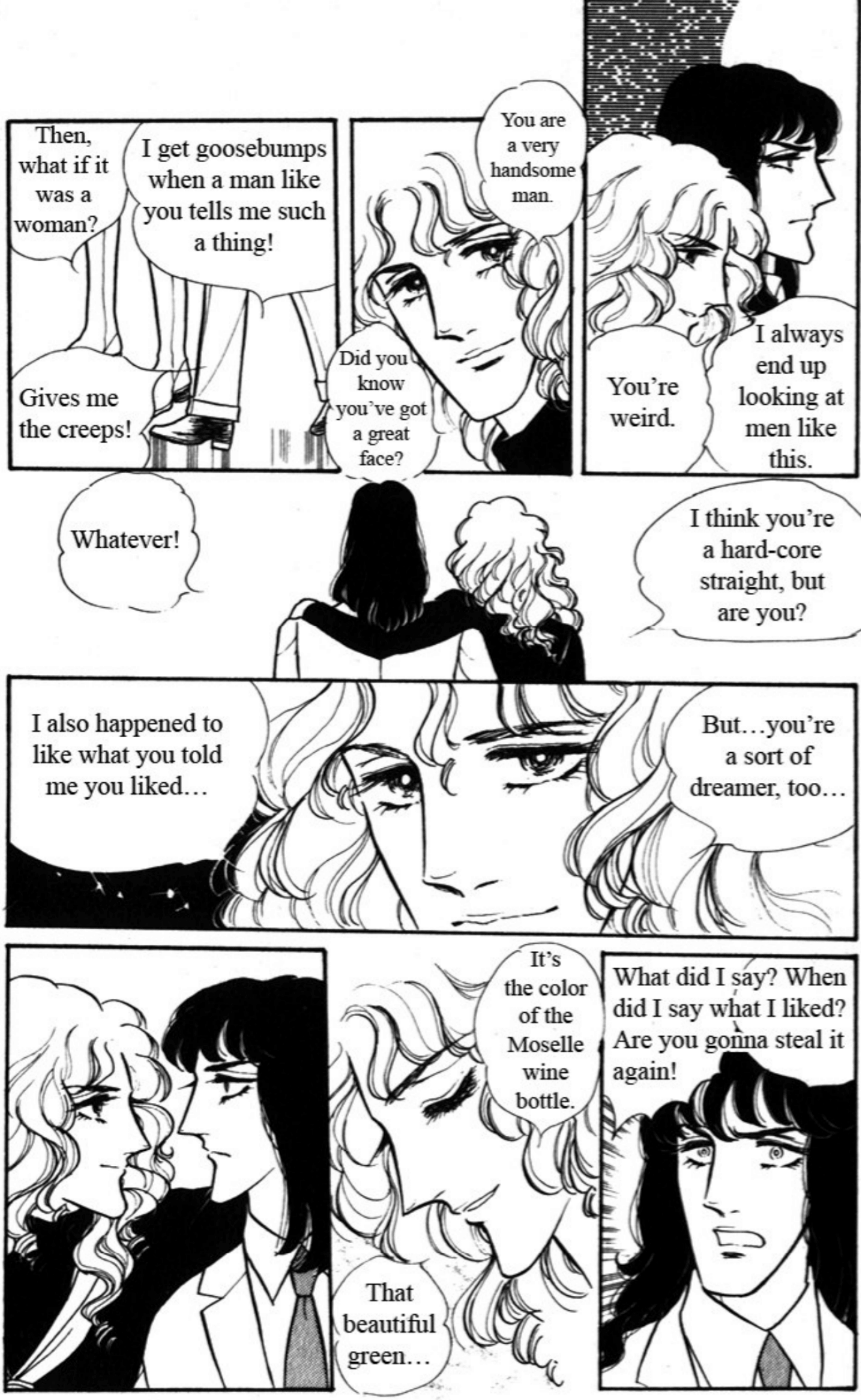

You…
…did it!
WHAM
This is my answer!
What?
The Baronne has escaped!
How could she?
Then, this man…
Hey!
Who are you?
How dare you interfere with us!
Don't shake me, my head hurts…
Shut up! You runabout!

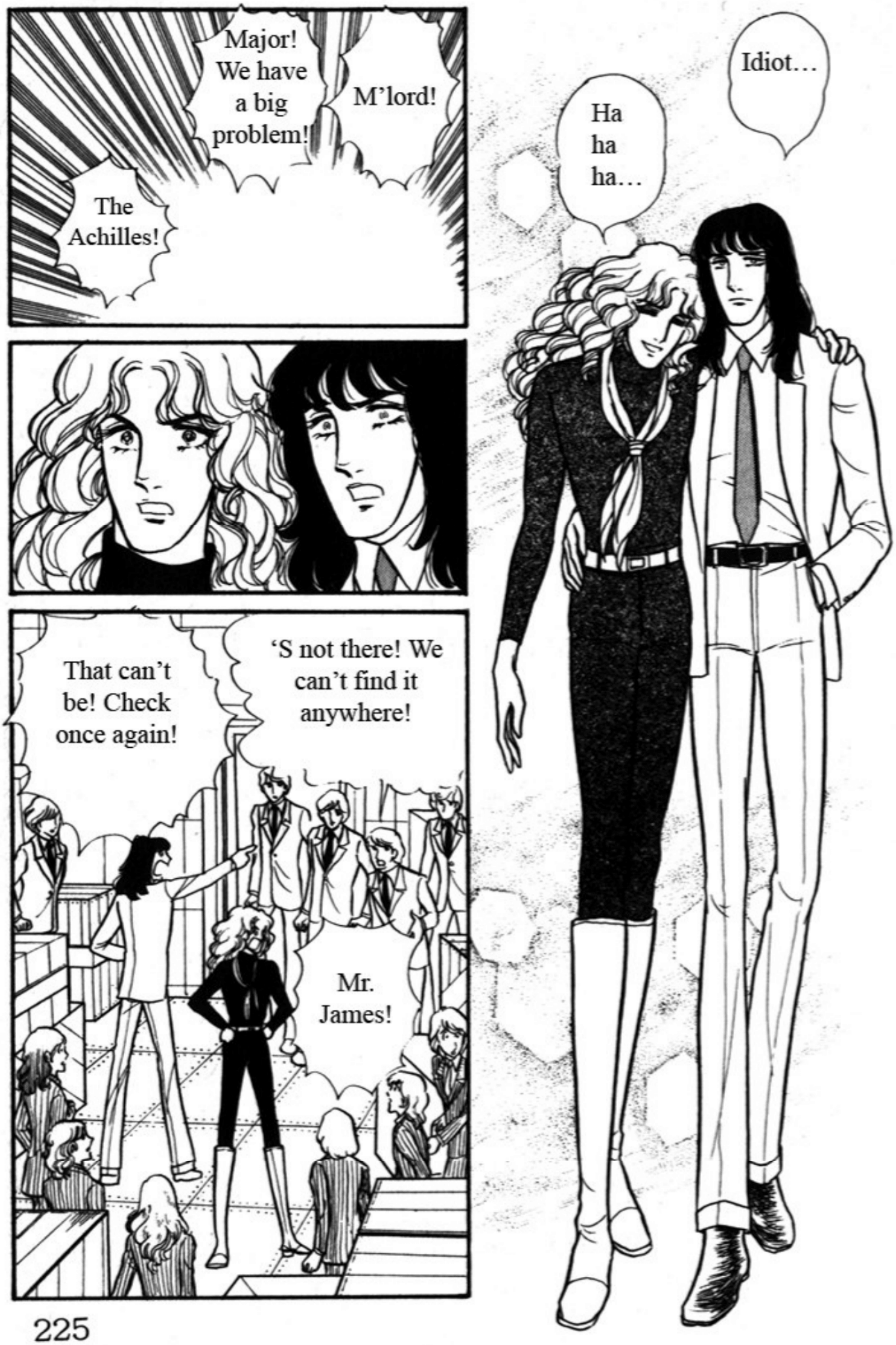

Well, I thought I was more of a sadist, you know…
I really don't appreciate being hit, but…
the first one did it…
You…
I vaguely remember this man…
Knock it off.
I know! He's Eroica!
The boss of the art theft group!
He's like our colleague.
It's rather unpleasant for me to be classed as one of you.
This is a great catch.
We can demand gobs of ransom money for this bugger.
Got lots of savings by now, haven't you?
I guess so.
It's no use holding me hostage, you know. My miserly accountant will spend his whole life beating you down to the best bargain imaginable.
I agree with that.
You can't get a penny out of this bugger.
What are you!?

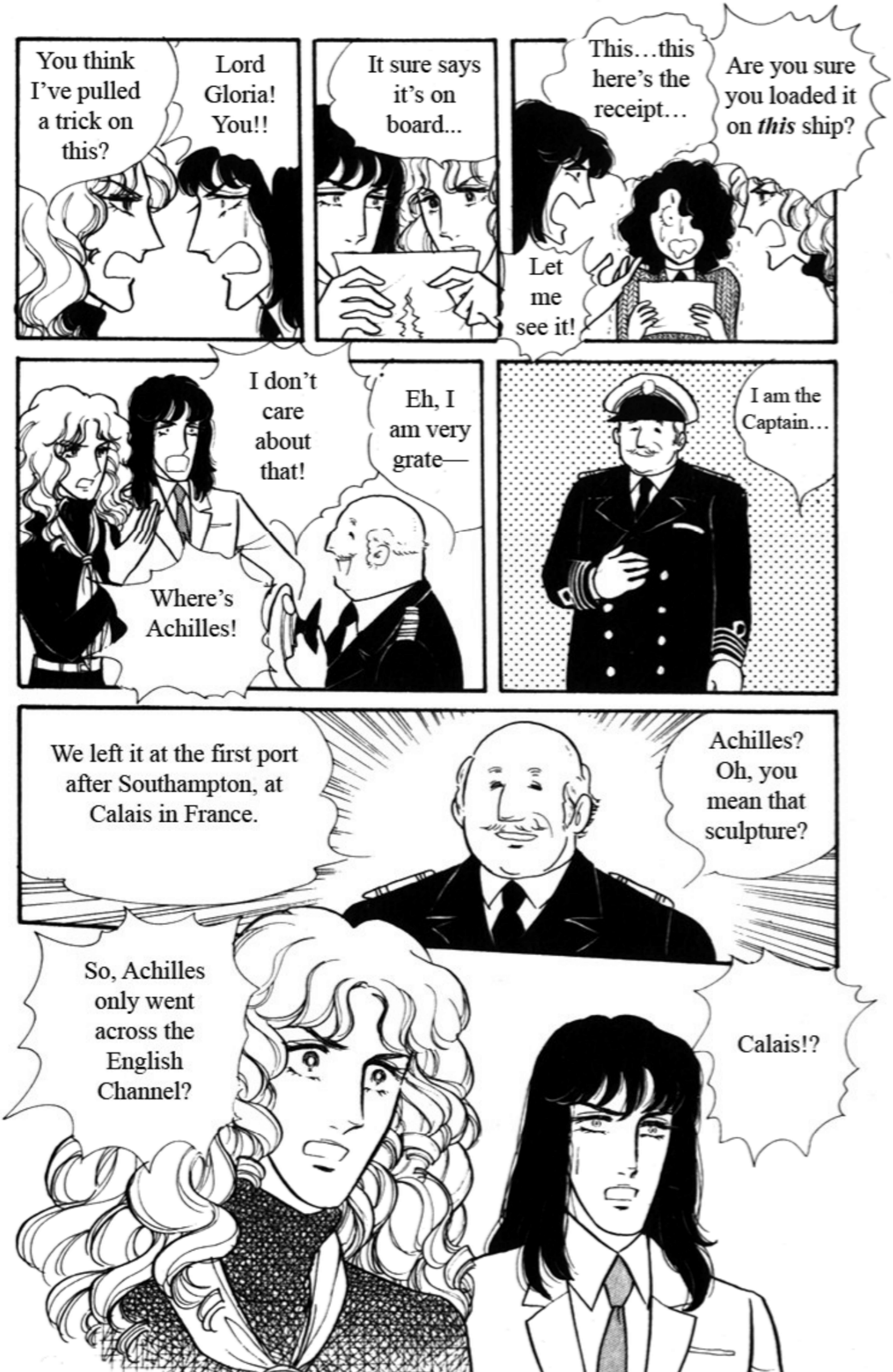

WHAM
ガッ
WHAM
バキッ
OW!!
Damn it!
BANG!

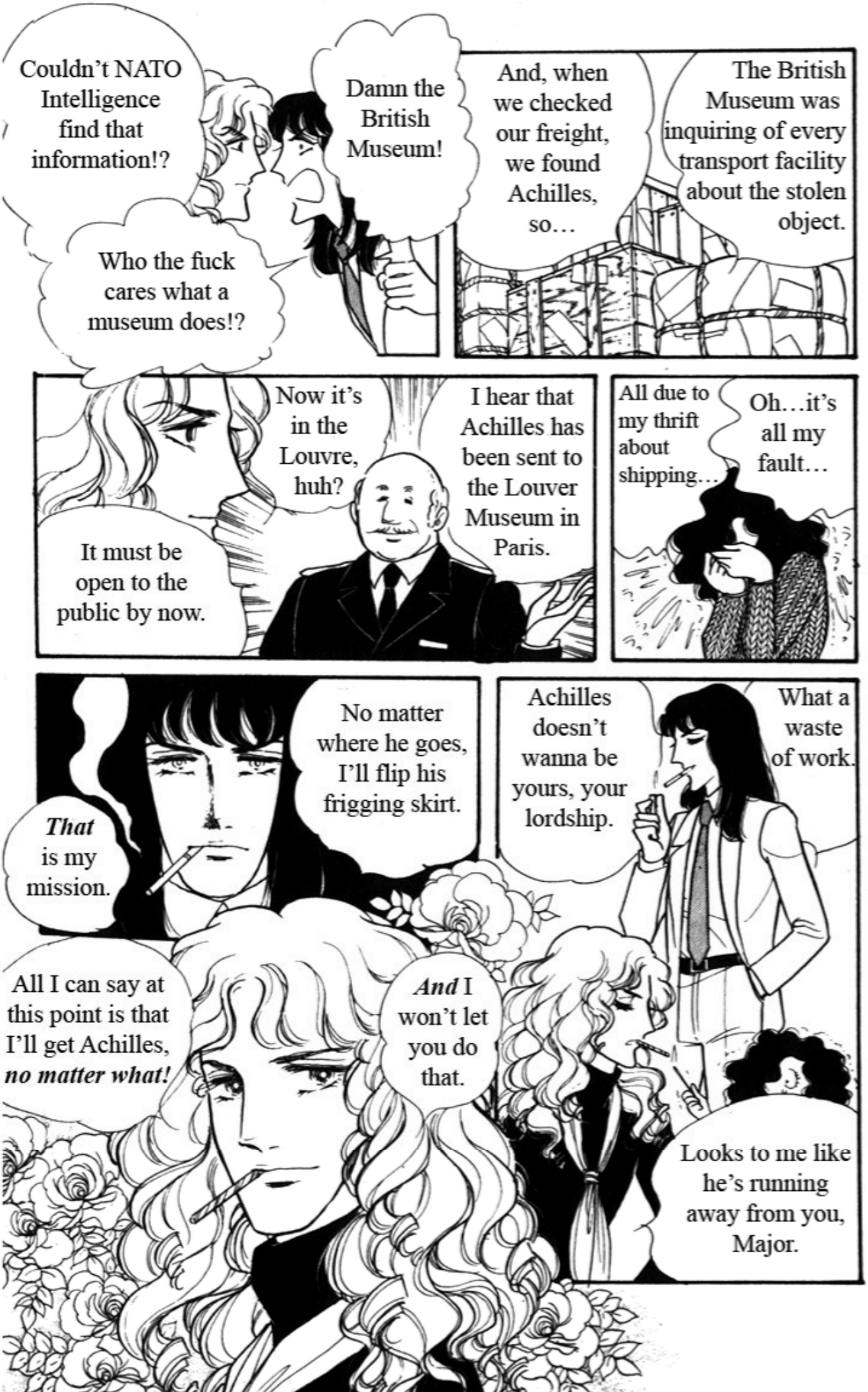

SNAP
Wowwww!!
That… was impressive
I'm a professional.
I thought I was a professional, too.
You are a thief.
That's a different field.
Well, you're right. It's something I wasn't used to…
Now that you've learned a lesson, don't stand in my way.

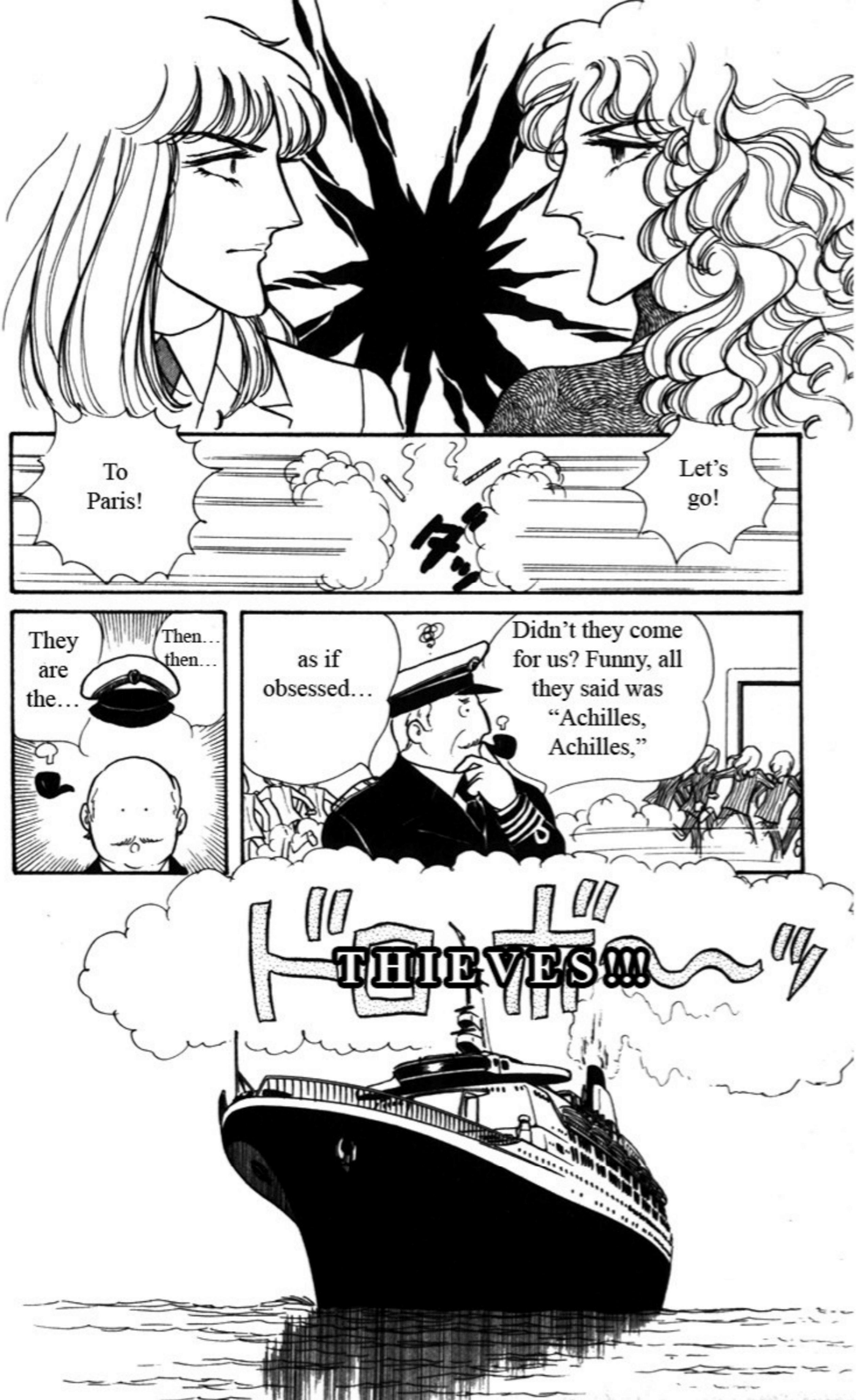

Good ol' hurt-comfort...
Been beaten up hard, haven't you?
Yeah...
You're slightly taller than I am, aren't you?
Does it bother you?
No, this is fine.
Major ...
Don't look at me like that!
D'you wanna walk alone?

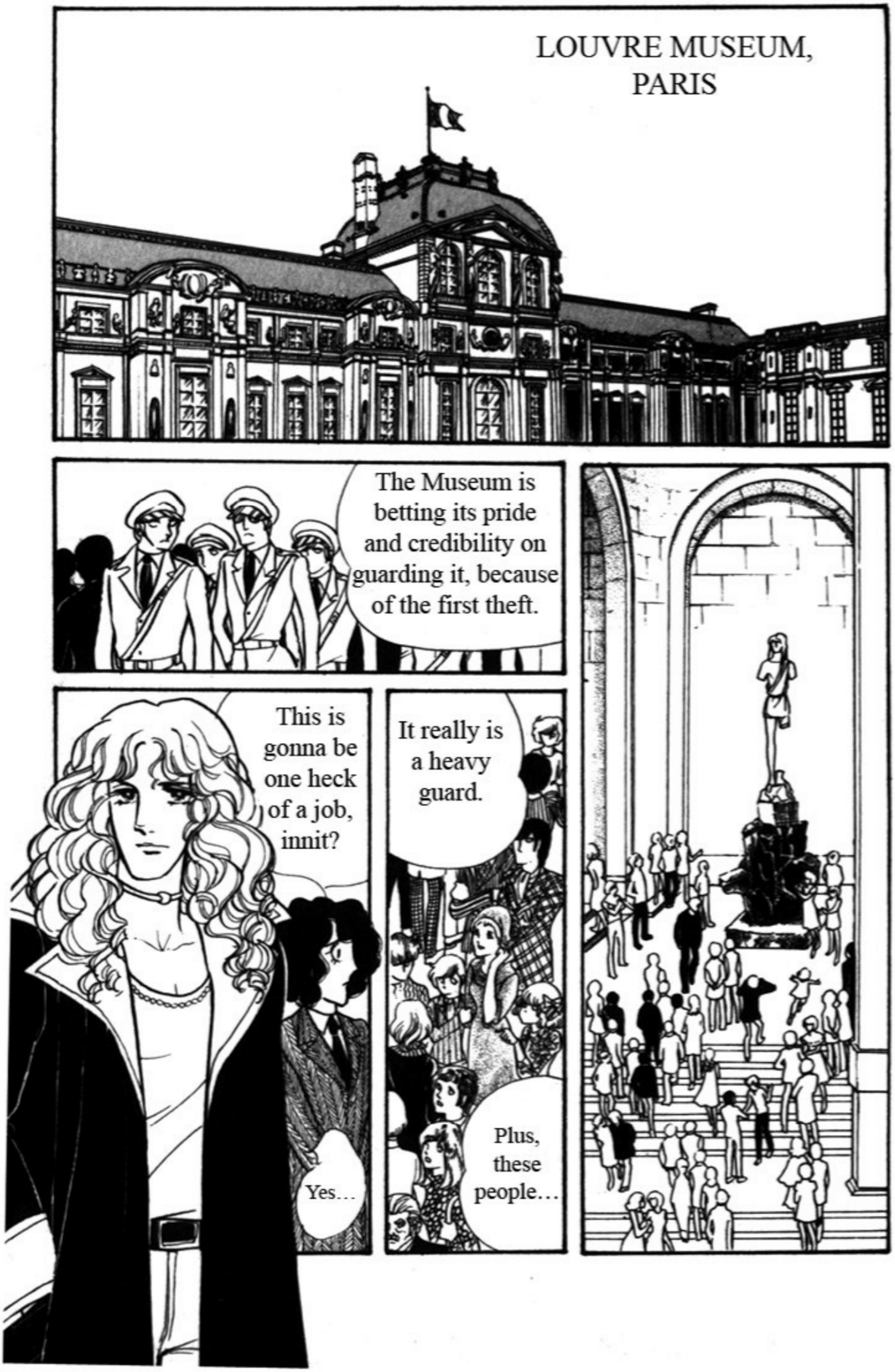

I always end up looking at men like this.
You're weird.
You are a very handsome man.
Did you know you've got a great face?
I get goosebumps when a man like you tells me such a thing!
Gives me the creeps!
Then, what if it was a woman?
I think you're a hard-core straight, but are you?
Whatever!
But…you're a sort of dreamer, too…
I also happened to like what you told me you liked…
What did I say? When did I say what I liked? Are you gonna steal it again!
It's the color of the Moselle wine bottle.
That beautiful green…

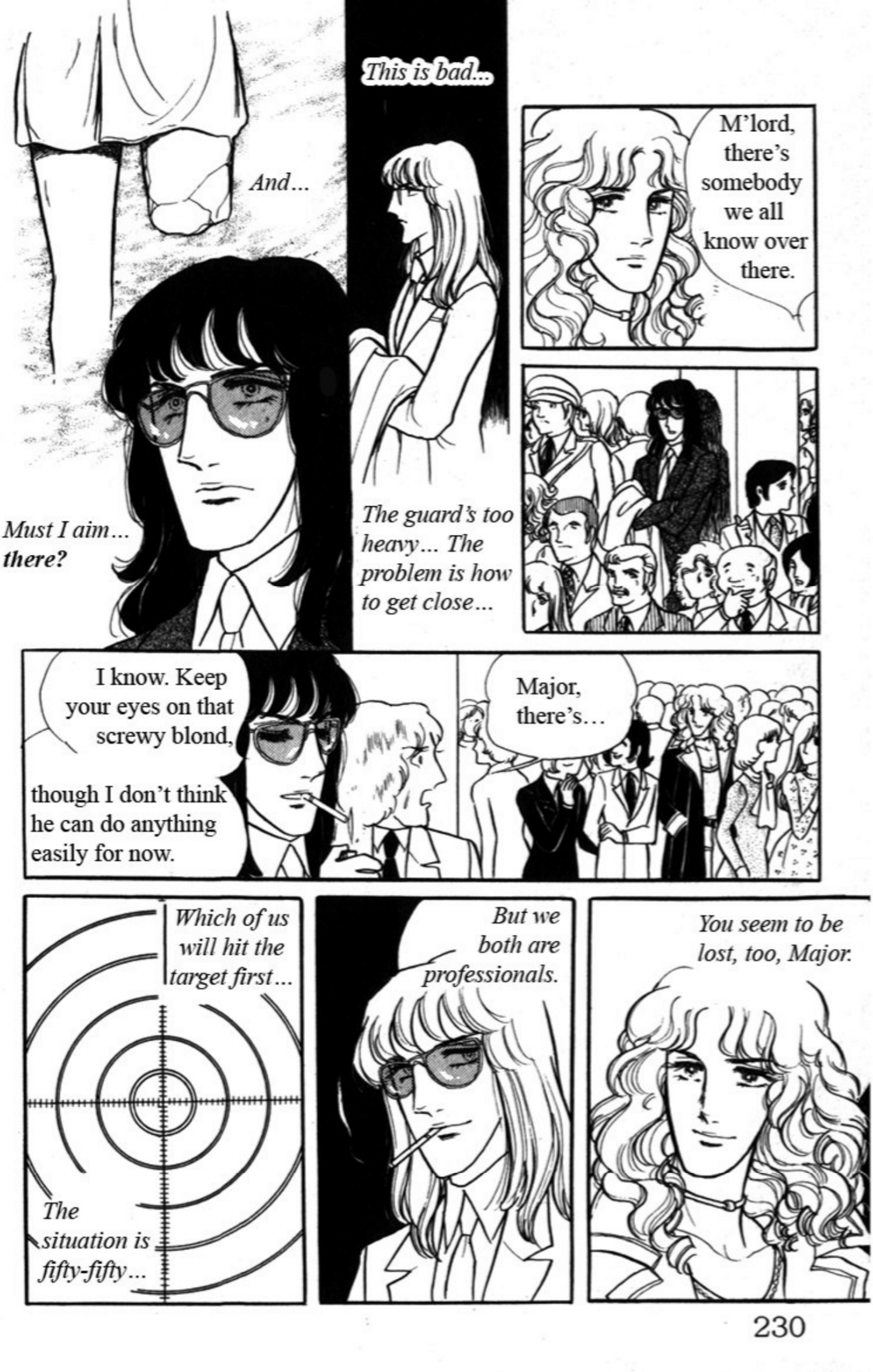

Major! We have a big problem!
M'lord!
The Achilles!
That can't be! Check once again!
'S not there! We can't find it anywhere!
Mr. James!
Ha ha ha…
Idiot…

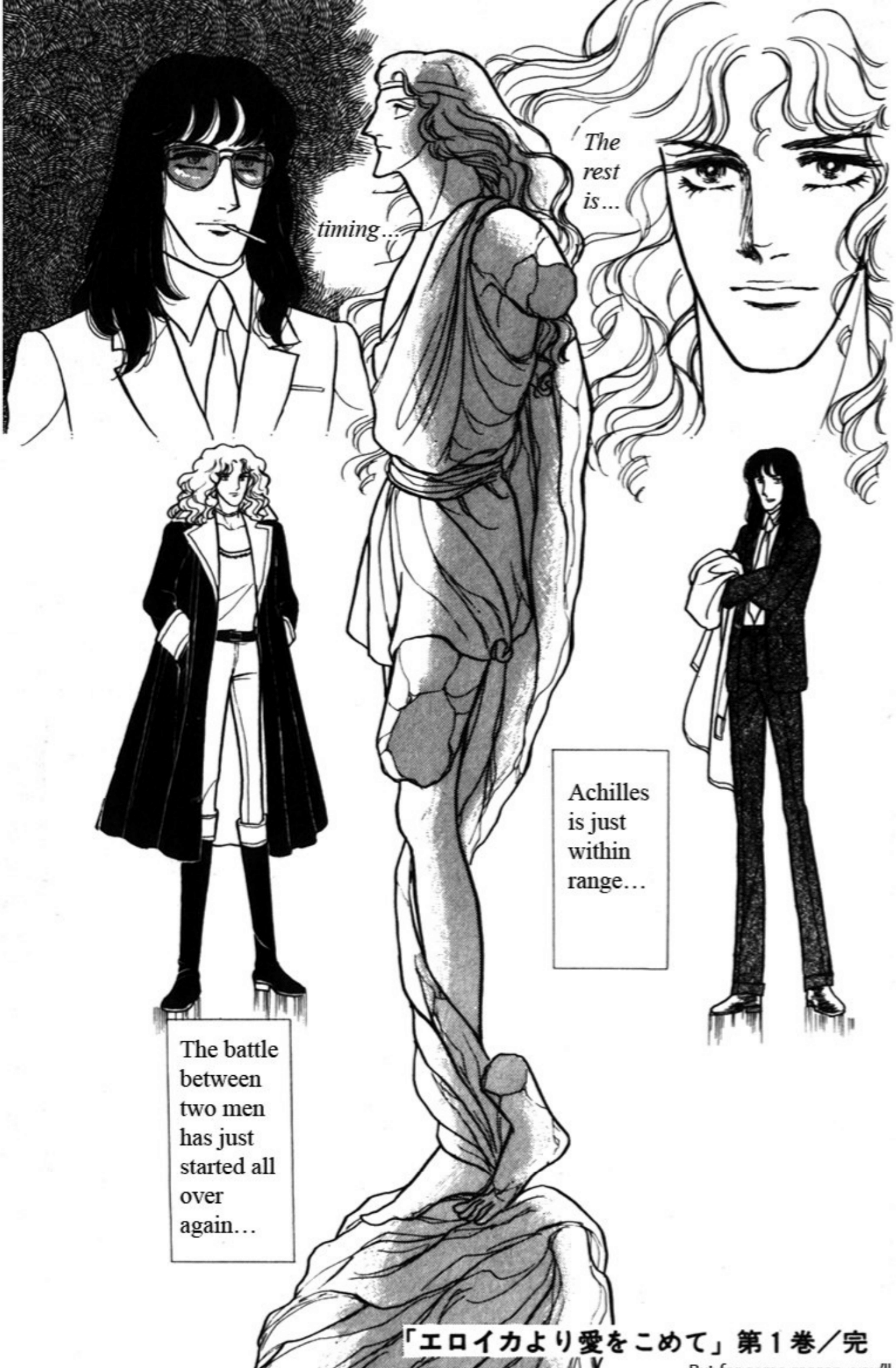

Are you sure you loaded it on *this* ship?
This…this here's the receipt…
Let me see it!
It sure says it's on board...
Lord Gloria! You!!
You think I've pulled a trick on this?
I am the Captain…
Eh, I am very grate—
I don't care about that!
Where's Achilles!
Achilles? Oh, you mean that sculpture?
We left it at the first port after Southampton, at Calais in France.
Calais!?
So, Achilles only went across the English Channel?


The British Museum was inquiring of every transport facility about the stolen object.
And, when we checked our freight, we found Achilles, so…
Damn the British Museum!
Couldn't NATO Intelligence find that information!?
Who the fuck cares what a museum does!?
Oh…it's all my fault…
All due to my thrift about shipping…
I hear that Achilles has been sent to the Louver Museum in Paris.
Now it's in the Louvre, huh?
It must be open to the public by now.
What a waste of work.
Achilles doesn't wanna be yours, your lordship.
No matter where he goes, I'll flip his frigging skirt.
That is my mission.
Looks to me like he's running away from you, Major.
And I won't let you do that.
All I can say at this point is that I'll get Achilles, ***no matter what!***


Let's go!
ダッ
To Paris!
Didn't they come for us? Funny, all they said was "Achilles, Achilles,"
as if obsessed…
Then… then…
They are the…
ドロボ～ッ
THIEVES!!!


LOUVRE MUSEUM, PARIS
The Museum is betting its pride and credibility on guarding it, because of the first theft.
This is gonna be one heck of a job, innit?
Yes…
It really is a heavy guard.
Plus, these people…


M'lord, there's somebody we all know over there.
This is bad...
The guard's too heavy... The problem is how to get close...
And...
Must I aim... ***there?***
Major, there's...
I know. Keep your eyes on that screwy blond,
though I don't think he can do anything easily for now.
You seem to be lost, too, Major.
But we both are professionals.
Which of us will hit the target first...
The situation is fifty-fifty...


The rest is…
timing…
Achilles is just within range…
The battle between two men has just started all over again…

「エロイカより愛をこめて」第１巻／完

But for some reason, you'll hear no more of Achilles...

青池保子

泥棒貴族のしゃれた
ロマンチック・コメディーを
かこうとしたら
こんなになってしまった…。
NO・2でしゃしゃり出て来た
サド目の少佐のせいです。
伯爵まけるな!
少佐がんばれ!
——私、この2人がとっても
気にいっているのです…。

大人気発売中 ひとみ・コミックス
■細川知栄子
伯爵令嬢 全⑫巻
■しらいしあい
わたしのあきらクン 全⑩巻
■中村地里
銀のキメイラ 全⑦巻
■魔夜峰央
魔ジャリ 全②巻
■英洋子
みるく♥みらくる 全⑤巻
レディ!! ①〜⑪巻
■イケスミチエコ
緋色マイロード 全⑤巻
■川口まどか
やさしい悪魔 ①〜⑨巻